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Egypt Jails 54 Islamists For Peaceful Agitation

Some Were Candidates In Parliamentary Vote Planned for Next Week

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Service

CAIRO — Less than a week before parliamentary elections intended to show Egypt's commitment to democracy, a military court Thursday sentenced 54 Islamic fundamentalists to jail terms of three or more years for their involvement in non-violent political activities.

The sentences were the latest and most compelling example of a government crackdown on nonviolent political opponents, in particular members of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's main opposition group, which has long operated in the open despite its official status as illegal.

Government officials accuse the Brotherhood — whose membership is dominated by such professionals as doctors, lawyers and university professors — of indirectly supporting Islamic militants who have waged a violent, four-year campaign to topple the secular regime of President Hosni Mubarak.

Human-rights groups, however, say the Mubarak regime is using Islamic militancy as a pretext to curb all forms of dissent, citing, among other things, prosecutions of journalists under a new press law that imposes harsh jail terms for libeling public figures. A number of the activists sentenced Thursday had announced their intention to run in next week's parliamentary elections.

"We're seeing a deterioration in the human-rights situation in Egypt on a number of levels," said Virginia Sherry, who attended the proceedings at a bleak army camp in the desert northeast of Cairo on behalf of Human Rights Watch, based in New York.

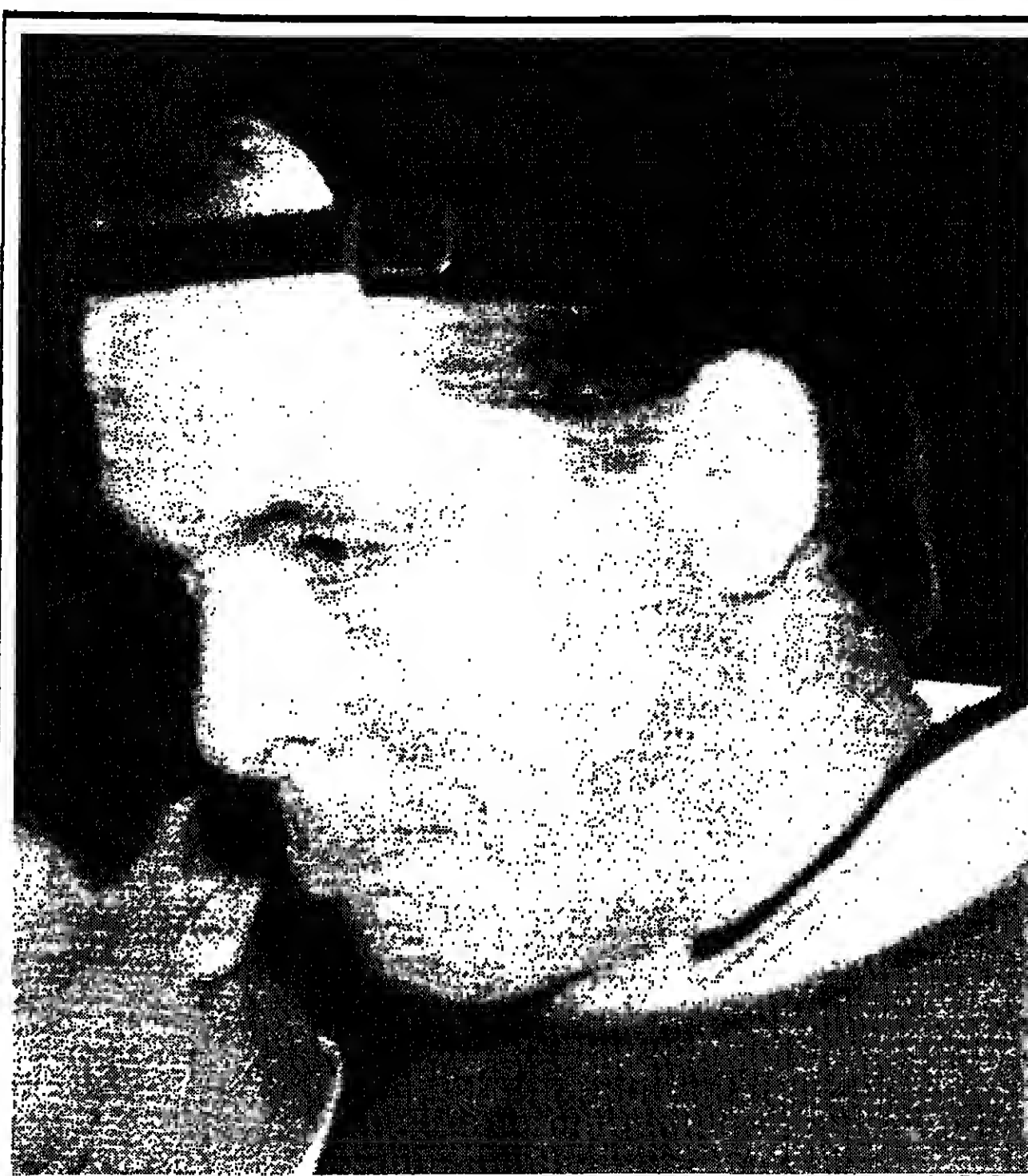
"It's not just related to political violence. It appears to be an assault on political opposition across a broad spectrum."

The increasingly repressive atmosphere poses a ticklish problem for the United States, which values Egypt as a diplomatic and military ally and bulwark against Islamic radicalism in the region. Despite mounting evidence of human-rights abuses, U.S. officials have refrained from public criticism of the Mubarak regime, saying they prefer to address the problem privately.

One of the most visible — and controversial — examples of the government's approach to internal security has been its use of military courts characterized by expedited trial proceedings and uniformed judges and prosecutors who report to the Ministry of Defense.

Over the last year, however, government security forces largely have contained the militants to several rural provinces in the central Nile Valley. Emboldened by its apparent success, the government has begun to shift its attention to the Muslim Brotherhood, which despite its official dis-

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BACK IN SINGAPORE — Nicholas Leeson, the British futures trader whose losses caused the collapse of Barings PLC, was returned to Singapore from Germany to face charges that could carry a long jail sentence. Page 13.

Gingrich Image Gets in Party's Way

By Robin Toner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Despite a year of legislative successes, the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, enters the final stage of budget negotiations with a public image so battered that the Democrats see it as one of his party's prime vulnerabilities. Congressional Republicans, including some of his staunchest loyalists, are increasingly concerned.

Mr. Gingrich dismisses his poll ratings, which dropped significantly during this month's budget maneuvering, as a transitory, short-term price of pushing for long-term change against the fierce opposition of a party that he asserts is bound to distort his program.

"When people learn the facts over the next five or six months, we'll be fine," he told the Republican governors this week at a meeting in Nashua, New Hampshire.

But Democratic congressional strategists want the public to see Mr. Gingrich and his party's economic platform as a single, unattractive package: intellectually challenging, perhaps, but

chilly and arrogant, and simply too extreme. And some Republicans in Congress, clearly frustrated at their difficulty in getting their message across to the American people, are increasingly worried that this image of the speaker is getting in the way.

They bitterly complain that the Democrats have mounted a concerted, systematic campaign to "demonize" Mr. Gingrich and thereby discredit his agenda. But some of them also acknowledge that Mr. Gingrich himself occasionally gives ammunition to his enemies.

The furor he prompted Tuesday when he linked a bizarre Illinois murder case to "the moral decay of the world the left is defending" and his lengthy complaints last week over his treatment aboard the presidential plane, Air Force One, going to and from Yitzhak Rabin's funeral were two such instances.

"He has truly been demonized," said Representative Christopher Shays, Republican of Connecticut. "Some of us want to put our arms around him and say, 'How do you hold up?' But at

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Belgrade Says Serbs From Bosnia Give In And Accept Accord

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

BELGRADE — The leadership of the Bosnian Serbs met Thursday with President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and agreed to carry out the peace plan for Bosnia that Mr. Milosevic helped negotiate in Ohio, state-run media reported Thursday night.

The agreement, if true, removes a major hurdle blocking the deployment of as many as 60,000 NATO troops to Bosnia to enforce the peace deal designed to end Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War II. But there was no immediate word from Bosnian Serb media sources to confirm the report.

According to the Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency, Radovan Karadzic and other hard-liners in the nationalist Bosnian Serb leadership met with Mr. Milosevic in Belgrade on Thursday and succumbed to his pressure to carry out the Bosnian peace plan. Significantly, the commander of the Bosnian Serb army, Ratko Mladic, was not at the talks.

"Despite some painful solutions for Republika Srpska, Republika Srpska will fully implement the accord," Tanjug said, using the name of the Serbian component of the Bosnian republic envisaged by the agreement initiated in Dayton, Ohio, on Tuesday.

Serbian sources said the meeting lasted almost 12 hours and was at times explosive.

Following the announcement of the peace accord, senior Bosnian Serb officials lambasted the plan because, among other things, it gave almost all of Sarajevo to the Bosnian Muslims.

Momcilo Krajisnik, the president of the self-proclaimed Parliament of the Bosnian Serb republic, called the deal an "especially bad mistake," adding that "no one has the right to give away territories that we defended with blood." Mr. Krajisnik had been a member of the Serbian negotiating team led by Mr. Milosevic.

The announcement amounts to another victory by Mr. Milosevic against the nationalist forces he unleashed in Bosnia in 1992 when he encouraged them in their land grab that at one time saw them occupying as much as 70 percent of that country.

For the past two and a half years, however, Mr. Milosevic has moved slowly and steadily to stop them and sue for peace, although twice in the recent past the Bosnian Serbs have rejected internationally brokered peace deals that Mr. Milosevic has either backed or signed.

But, now that Mr. Milosevic apparently has won the agreement of the Bosnian Serb leadership to realize the plan, another question remains: What will he do with the two men who embody the ruthless and bloody struggle of the Bosnian Serbs for an ethnically pure state free of Bosnia's Muslims and Croats? Both Mr. Karadzic and General Mladic have been indicted by the International War Crimes Tribunal at the

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NATO Force Gets Broad Authority to Keep Peace

By R. Jeffrey Smith
and Dana Priest
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. and other troops implementing the Bosnian peace accord are charged not just with separating the warring parties, but also with controlling or overseeing many aspects of civilian and military life in the divided country, according to the text of the agreement and U.S. officials.

The broad authority granted to the NATO-led peacekeepers will help them maintain control and thus minimize their own risks and casualties, U.S. officials said. But it also means the forces could become involved in significant ways in governing Bosnia, exposing them to potential local frictions.

In contrast to the relatively limited scope of U.S. involvement previously described by the Clinton administration, the accord reached Tuesday gives the peacekeepers such tasks as en-

President Clinton to seek support for Bosnia force. Page 3.

During the free movement and resettlement of refugees, aiding humanitarian workers, resolving boundary disputes, creating "secure conditions" for free elections, and responding to violence against civilians.

In what the Clinton administration viewed as a key achievement, the peace force also received the right to "complete and unimpeded freedom of movement by ground, air and water." The U.S. commander of the so-called Implementation Force obtained additional power to regulate all communications and all military and civilian use of airspace, ports and certain strategic corridors.

The peacekeepers will enforce requirements that the warring parties withdraw from 21 two-mile-wide zones of separation within 30 days of a formal signing ceremony and leave agreed land to be swapped within 45 days. They also must remove or dismantle mines and other weapons from these areas and

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Violence in Mice Tied to Lack of Chemical Without Nitric Oxide, Males Turn Highly Aggressive

By David Brown
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Researchers have found that the absence of a specific signaling chemical in the brain can transform normal mice into violent and sexually aggressive miscreants.

The substance, nitric oxide, is a simple compound whose role in living organisms was unknown a decade ago. Male mice whose brains lack it attack one another ferociously, often fighting to the death. When placed among females, the nitric oxide-deficient animals repeatedly attempt to mate, even when rejected.

Uncontrolled rage "is the sort of aggression apparently being mediated by nitric oxide," said Randy J. Nelson, a psychologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, who performed some of the experiments.

Nitric oxide (NO) is produced by the action of an enzyme called nitric oxide synthase (NOS). The aberrant mice lacked a gene that encodes instructions for making NOS in nerve cells.

Human beings possess a nearly identical

gene, although its behavioral effects have not been studied. Whether any violent or criminal behavior in people stems in part from nitric oxide deficiency is unknown.

The findings, reported in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*, are unusual in many respects.

Most genetic mutations alter the function of many organs, causing a confusing mixture of defects. It is unusual to find a mutation that affects only behavior, and especially rare when the behavior is as distinctive as aggression.

In this case, the aberrations were both dramatic and confined to males, suggesting that NO action in the brain is intimately bound up with sexual differences.

NO is a two-atom molecule, so small and light that at body temperature it is a gas. Its active life is measured in thousandths of a second. In contrast, other neurotransmitters, such as dopamine and serotonin, contain dozens of atoms, exist as dissolved solids in the body, and survive in tissue for minutes to hours.

Until recently, nitric oxide was mainly thought of as an environmental pollutant that comes out of automobile tailpipes and

causes smog. (It should not be confused with nitrous oxide, a mild anesthetic known as "laughing gas.")

Eight years ago, researchers discovered measurable amounts of NO in the walls of blood vessels. Experiments proved NO is made by cells lining arteries and veins, where it plays a major role in regulating blood pressure.

Since then, NO has been found in nearly every organ system in an astonishing variety of roles. It helps regulate the clotting of blood; it is an antimicrobial weapon by the immune system; it promotes rhythmic intestinal contractions during digestion; it redirects blood flow to make the penis erect. Consequently, it was no surprise that NO works in the brain, too.

In the mice experiments, many mice were often found dead. After observing them, however, it was obvious that the cause of death was repeated attacks by fellow mice.

When placed among females, NO-deficient males exhibited abnormal sexual aggression, constantly mounting the females even when the latter were not in heat and ignoring gestures of rejection.

AGENDA

Attack on Diana Angers Major

LONDON (Reuters) — Prime Minister John Major on Thursday rebuked a minister for saying that Diana, Princess of Wales, had shown "the advance stages of paranoia" in a TV interview. Asked in Parliament whether the armed forces minister, Nicholas Soames, should be dismissed for speaking "out of turn," he replied, "I do not expect any more comments."

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The "Extra Mile" in Dayton

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A Bosnian Serb soldier with his belongings waiting for transportation Thursday near Pale, Bosnia, after leaders of his faction accepted a peace plan.

No Checks Please, We're Japanese (and Robbers Take Notice)

By Andrew Pollack
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Morimatsu Saito barely knew what hit him. The 63-year-old securities company employee was walking through Tokyo's financial district carrying a bag containing \$400,000 to his company. Just as he reached his building, a man wearing a helmet approached him, sprayed a debilitating gas in his face, and ran off with the money.

The robbery, which took place in September on a

busy street in broad daylight, was one of several recent episodes that have shocked normally safe Japan. But why would someone walk unguarded through the streets with \$400,000 anyway?

The answer is that Japan runs on cash. Personal checks have never caught on here. Credit cards have recently been spreading rapidly, but even their use is not that well ingrained.

Instead, people often pay bills amounting to thousands of dollars in cash. Postal service employees visit customers' homes on red bicycles to collect cash for

life insurance premiums or savings account deposits. And on the 10th and 20th of each month, traffic is said to be particularly heavy as businessmen visit suppliers and clients to pay bills or receive payment in cash.

In Mr. Saito's case, he was bringing the money from a nearby bank because his company, Kyoritsu Securities, needed it to pay customers, who like to receive their proceeds from stock sales in cash, even in amounts up to tens of thousands of dollars.

A result is that the Japanese often carry large amounts of cash. This habit has made Japanese tourists tempting

targets for pickpockets around the world. But in Japan, where robberies are rare, it has hardly been a problem.

Shigeru Nomura, an 80-year-old man who emerged from a securities company near where Mr. Saito was robbed, said he sometimes carried tens of thousands of dollars in a paper bag. "I get a little nervous," he allowed — but not nervous enough to have someone accompany him.

Recently, however, the number of robberies, while

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From 'Absolute Crisis' to Triumph / At Last Moment, Bosnian Blinked

The Tortuous 'Extra Mile' for a Balkan Accord

By Michael Dobbs
Washington Post Service

DAYTON, Ohio — As he scrubbed himself down in the shower Tuesday morning, Richard C. Holbrooke began composing a speech to announce the failure of the Bosnia peace talks. Moments later, the chief American negotiator to the former Yugoslavia got a call from a reporter who asked how the negotiations were going. "We are in an absolute crisis," he snapped.

The mood in the morning American staff meeting in the two-story barracks that U.S. delegates had christened "Holbrooke Hall" was bleak. Overnight, the Bosnian foreign minister had phoned reporters to say that the negotiations had been broken off.

Someone spotted the president of Serbia striding jacketless over the snow-covered parking lot from the barracks housing the Serbian delegation. Mr. Holbrooke's wife, Kati, rushed out to bring him inside.

"I want to walk the extra mile for peace," Slobodan Milosevic announced to the startled Americans.

Unbeknownst to Mr. Holbrooke, Mr. Milosevic had struck a deal with his oedipal mortal enemy, President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia. The two leaders had agreed to initial the U.S.-sponsored peace agreement for Bosnia and submit to international arbitration a final territorial dispute. That left President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia as the sole holdout.

Just after 10 A.M., Mr. Izetbegovic accepted the Serbian-Croatian offer. "It is not a just peace, but my country needs peace," he told Mr. Holbrooke and Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher with an air of resignation. Ninety minutes later, President Bill Clinton went into the White House Rose Garden to announce the end of the worst fighting in Europe since World War II.

It was a fitting climax to an extraordinary peace conference that veered repeatedly between success and failure. For three weeks, the men responsible for unleashing the fratricidal war in the former Yugoslavia had been locked up with negotiators from the United States, Europe and Russia. The way the conference ended was also a telling reflection of the different negotiating strategies of the principal actors in the talks.

"Milosevic kept going an extra mile for a deal," Mr. Holbrooke said.

"Izetbegovic was unsure whether to grasp the opportunity for peace. His people had been imprisoned and embattled for so long, and he had a divided delegation. . . . Tudjman would play one man off against the other in order to secure maximum advantage for Croatia."

The media were kept at a distance from the talks, which took place behind high-security fences at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base outside Dayton. While there were plenty of leaks, many of the most dramatic moments were known only to the participants. This reconstruction of the climactic finish to the Dayton talks was assembled from interviews with Mr. Holbrooke, other American and European negotiators and Balkan delegates.

There were smoke-filled rooms galore. The hallway outside Mr. Holbrooke's suite was named the "Posavina Corridor," in honor of the single most troublesome issue at the talks, a sliver of land linking Serb-held territory in eastern and northern Bosnia.

Emotions had been kept in check during the first two weeks of the talks, but they burst into the open as soon as the rival Balkan warlords began haggling over territory. When Mr. Milosevic found out that American proposals would award the Bosnian-Croat federation 55 percent of Bosnian territory, instead of the 51 percent originally envisaged, he exploded.

"You tricked me," he told Mr. Holbrooke. "I thought we were negotiating in good faith."



President Izetbegovic of Bosnia, left, ended his resistance to the accord after President Milosevic of Serbia, right, and the Croatian leader agreed to sign. Below, Richard Holbrooke, the American envoy, beaming after the signing.



I am willing to be flexible for peace, but I cannot go home to Belgrade with anything less than 51-49."

Many of the most intense discussions took place in a room covered with maps of Bosnia and crisscrossed with sophisticated computer equipment. Nicknamed the "Nintendo Room," it included a computer that instantly recalculated the percentages of territory assigned to both sides under changing peace plans.

Although Mr. Milosevic ultimately drew the line at preserving the principle of a 51-49 split, he had been flexible on most territorial issues, including Sarajevo itself. The first big breakthrough on the map had taken place in the "Nintendo Room" on Friday evening, Nov. 17. With a top Pentagon general crouching by his side to manipulate the joystick, Mr. Milosevic zoomed in on the site of an American-proposed corridor to link the Muslim-held town of Gorazde with Sarajevo. After surveying the corridor from a variety of angles, he finally decided that he could accept the proposal.

Mr. Milosevic gave American negotiators the impression that he did not really care whether the Bosnian Serbs ended up in control of villages and towns over which so much blood had been spilled over the past three and a half years.

"These Bosnians are all the same, whether they are Serb or Muslim. They all have the same accent," he confided patronizingly to an American negotiator. He told another U.S. official that it would be a "waste of your time" to canvass the opinions of the senior Bosnian Serb official, Nikola Koljevic. The Bosnian Serb negotiating team constantly complained that Mr. Milosevic was keeping them in the dark.

American negotiators were intrigued by Mr. Milosevic, who has been widely blamed for unleashing the wave of nationalist fury that swept across the former Yugoslavia in 1991 with his calls for all Serbs to be permitted to live in a single state. Outwardly at least, the Serbian strongman is the most sophisticated knowledge of American popular culture.

The standard American explanation for Mr. Milosevic's transformation from warmaker to peacemaker is that he was never a real nationalist, merely an opportunist. In 1991, at a time when he was under strong political pressure from domestic opponents, it was in his interest to whip up nationalist passions in Ser-



bia. Four years later, he sensed that nationalism had led Serbia up an economic blind alley and that an end to the war was the only way out.

Faced with Muslim intransigence, Mr. Milosevic gave up on one territorial demand after another. At first he insisted on surrendering the Sarajevo suburbs of Grbavica and Ilidza to federation control. By Sunday night, however, he had agreed to the principle of a united Sarajevo under federation control.

"You earned it," he told the Bosnian prime minister, Haris Silajdzic. "You lived through the shelling."

In contrast to Mr. Milosevic, who repeatedly gave away on territorial issues, the Muslims stuck to a firm line. Their intransigence appeared to reflect a fundamental ambivalence over whether the peace deal the Americans offered was worth having at all. With the tide of the war turning in their favor for the first time in more than four years, they had little incentive to compromise.

To persuade the Muslims, the Americans had big flash cards constructed of all the benefits that would flow to Bosnia under a peace agreement. The benefits included an economic reconstruction package, provisions barring war criminals from running for office and the normalization of relations between Bosnia and Serbia.

Mr. Christopher, who had just returned to Dayton after a trip to Japan, took the flash cards to Mr. Izetbegovic on Saturday evening and set a midnight deadline for the success of

the talks. The deadline came and went without results.

The next day, Sunday, the Americans publicly announced a new deadline of 10 A.M. Monday morning for the talks to end in success or failure. Bosnian and Serbian leaders gathered in Mr. Holbrooke's suite to attempt to thrash out the remaining territorial differences, which centered on a Serbian demand for a broadening of the Posavina corridor. Mr. Izetbegovic refused to agree to any widening of the corridor. Faced with the Muslim refusal, negotiators began to look for other ways of compensating the Serbs and making sure that they ended up with the promised 49 percent of Bosnian territory. By 4 A.M. Monday, they thought they had found a solution. The Croats would be asked to give up mountainous land in western Bosnia that they had seized during the summer. Mr. Christopher opened a bottle of wine to celebrate the deal — which lasted for 37 minutes. When the normally soft-spoken Croatian foreign minister, Mate Granic, was invited to inspect the map, he grunted the table.

"This is impossible, impossible," he shouted. "There is zero point zero chance of my president accepting this."

American negotiators were stunned by the collapse of a peace agreement. Suddenly, everybody began reopening territorial issues that had seemed settled long before. It required a telephone call from President Clinton to President Tudjman to extract some last-minute territorial concessions and keep everybody at the negotiating table. By now, however, the Bosnians had upped their demands: They revived a demand to place the town of Brcko, at the mouth of the Posavina Corridor, under international supervision.

By Monday evening, Mr. Christopher and Mr. Holbrooke decided on a final deadline. With Mr. Clinton's agreement, Mr. Christopher wrote a letter to the delegates, announcing that the conference would wind up Tuesday morning, with or without an agreement.

In a final effort to save the talks, Mr. Holbrooke sent his aides to tell Mr. Milosevic about the latest Bosnian demand. He and Mr. Christopher went to bed that night, fearing that the talks were on the verge of failure. As they slept, Mr. Milosevic came up with the idea that he and Mr. Tudjman sign the peace agreement by themselves, in order to put the squeeze on Mr. Izetbegovic. He also decided to submit the Brcko issue to arbitration.

Sri Lanka Cuts Off Rebel Stronghold
Military Vows Lost Plane Won't Stop Troop Advance

COLOMBO — The Sri Lankan Army cut off the rebel-held town of Jaffna on Thursday, according to a military spokesman.

He said government troops, tightening their control of the Tiger citadel of Jaffna, had sealed off the entire town, trapping 2,000 guerrillas of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam inside.

The military spokesman, Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, said: "We have effectively cut off Jaffna town from the rest of the peninsula. Tigers are trapped in town. They have to jump into the sea, bite cyanide or surrender."

Earlier, defense officials said the army advance on the northern Jaffna citadel of the Tamil Tigers had been slowed, but not stopped, by the crash of a transport plane that was carrying troops.

Brigadier Munasinghe said that Wednesday's crash, in bad weather in the northern seas, was not likely to affect the advance of the troops significantly.

Sri Lankan defense officials said the air force would buy more planes to continue operations against the Tiger rebels. All 63 passengers, mostly troops, were killed when the Russian-built AN-32 crashed Wednesday, 12 kilometers from the Palali air base.

The chief of staff of the Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Deputy Marshal Anselm Peries, said the AN-32 had crashed because of pilot error or because of the weather. The crash was "least likely" to have been caused by terrorist activity, he added.

The air force has now lost six planes in seven months, two of them in the past week.

Meanwhile, President Chan-

drika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga on Thursday called for talks to end the fighting.

"We must negotiate a lasting political solution and then, and only then, can there be peace for our people," she said in an address to the nation broadcast over state radio. "The end of the war does not mean peace."

She did not name or directly invite the Tamil Tigers for negotiations but she said she wanted peace with honor and dignity for all. (Reuters, AFP)

Magistrate Orders The Arrest of Berlusconi Aide

MILAN — A Milan magistrate ordered the arrest of a top manager at Silvio Berlusconi's Fininvest company on Thursday on suspicion of channeling bribes to Italy's disgraced former prime minister, Bettino Craxi.

Mr. Berlusconi, who spent a stormy seven months as prime minister in 1994, hit back by saying the judiciary was waging a politically motivated campaign to discredit him.

Sources said Giorgio Vanoni, finance director of Fininvest's foreign subsidiaries, was being sought for questioning.

Judge Maurizio Grigo also issued arrest warrants for Mr. Craxi, who lives as a fugitive in Tunisia and has been sentenced to jail terms in at least three other anti-graft trials, and two close associates.

One of the two, Giorgio Tradi, was arrested Thursday, and a warrant was also out for the arrest of Mr. Craxi's former assistant, Mauro Giallombardo.

TRAVEL UPDATE

French Transport Begins Slowdown

PARIS (Reuters) — French transport services began a strike Thursday night as part of a widespread protest over government austerity plans.

Air France canceled 82 medium-range flights Thursday because of an air traffic controllers strike from 5:30 P.M. to 7 A.M. More than 80 percent of its European flights are expected to be canceled Friday. Air Inter canceled 51 of 91 flights Thursday evening and 386 of 476 flights Friday.

Commuter trains around Paris and regional trains outside the Paris region were to be halted. In Paris on Friday, only one in five Metro trains were expected to run, one in five RER regional express trains and one in three buses.

All night trains were canceled Thursday night and Friday night. Most high-speed trains were canceled for Friday, except the Eurostar Paris-London line, which will run 10 of 12 scheduled services. Rail services will run at 50 percent of normal as of early Saturday, but several unions have called for the strike to continue beyond Friday.

Iberia Pilots Start 2-Day Strike

MADRID (AFP) — Pilots of the Spanish national carrier Iberia began the latest in a series of two-day strikes Thursday, and the company said 259 of the 438 flights scheduled for the day were being canceled.

Iberia said the stoppage would mainly affect domestic and inter-European flights. Talks between management and the pilots, who are protesting a restructuring plan that involves job and salary cuts, broke down Tuesday.

New talks are planned but if no agreement is reached, the pilots expect a new 48-hour stoppage Tuesday and Wednesday.

For the Record

A group led by Swedish construction group Skanska has won a contract to build a massive bridge between Malmo, Sweden, and Copenhagen. The project involves construction of a bridge above the sea, approach bridges, a tunnel and other works extending for 16 kilometers. (AFP)

Trains between Brussels and Britain, France and the Netherlands will not run Friday because of a strike by rail workers in and around Brussels. The Belgian state railroad said. The strike will be the third regional day of action called by unions to protest government plans to cut 10,000 jobs by 2005. (AFP)

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Pakistan Arrests 12 in Embassy Bombing
Delay in Delivering Egyptian Warning Is Investigated

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The Pakistani authorities have arrested 12 suspects in connection with a car-bombing at the Egyptian Embassy that killed 17 people and wounded 60, Interior Minister Nasserullah Khan Babar said Thursday.

The suspects — six Egyptians, two Jordanians and four Afghans — were arrested in Karachi, Peshawar and Islamabad, he said.

The authorities were also looking for four Afghan employees of the Egyptian Embassy who have been missing since the suicide car-bomb blast Sunday.

Mr. Babar said he had also ordered an inquiry into why there had been a delay in the delivery of a letter from the Egyptian ambassador warning of possible terrorist attacks against Egyptian targets. The

note, following the murder of an Egyptian diplomat abroad, was received 48 hours before the car-bombing.

Mr. Babar said the ambassador, Mohammed Noman Galal, wrote to Islamabad's chief law enforcement official last week saying that Egypt was afraid Islamist forces would attack the embassy or hijack an Egyptian airliner.

But the letter, marked "most urgent," was misplaced in Pakistan's bureaucracy and was not delivered to the official until after the explosion, he said.

He identified the detained Egyptians as Mohammed Hilmi Mustafa, Mohammed, Mohammed Badawi Abdul Maqsood, Syed Ibrahim Ali, Yasser

Farooq Ninesy and Eid Ismail Shalooli. The Jordanians were Humza Azzam and Huthaifa Azzam. Mr. Babar only identified two of the four Afghan suspects, Noorullah Hayat and Ghulam Jaji. (AFP, AP)

FBI Begins Inquiry
FBI agents have been sent to Pakistan to search for possible links between the bombing at the Egyptian Embassy and a terrorist blast that killed five Americans Nov. 13 in Saudi Arabia.

Law enforcement officials said Wednesday. The New York Times reported from Washington. The U.S. authorities are exploring whether the attacks were carried out by the same or allied Islamic militant groups.

Cuban Leader, in a First Since '61, to Visit China

BEIJING — President Fidel Castro of Cuba will visit China for the first time next week, a government spokesman said Thursday.

The Cuban leader will arrive Wednesday and stay until Dec. 8 at the invitation of President Jiang Zemin, a Foreign Ministry spokesman. Shen Guofang, said at a press conference.

It will be the first visit to China by a Cuban head of state since 1961, when President Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado went, official Cuban sources said. At the time, Mr. Castro was prime minister.

Cuba was the first Latin American country to recognize the Communists as the legitimate government of China in 1960. But relations became frosty for nearly three decades because of the Chinese-Soviet schism. Havana had sided with the Soviet camp, which was accused of revisionism by Mao Zedong.

Contacts were renewed after Beijing and Moscow reconciled in 1989, when Mikhail S. Gorbachev, then the Soviet president, visited China.

Chinese-Cuban relations were restored in November 1993.

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Antigua (5-hour zone)	1-800-365-4663	Czech Republic	0042-087-187	Japan	172-1877	Poland	0800-14-8877
Argentina	02-1-800-777-1111	Denmark	800-4-0677	Japan (Hawaii)	873	Portugal	001-900-13-877
Australia	2-10-135	Dominican Republic	1168-77	Japan (Tokyo, Osaka)	1-800-877-8000	Romania	00-300-1-477
Australia (Sydney)	1-800-531-10	Ecuador	999-171	Japan (Yokohama)	0044-55-877	Saudi Arabia	1-800-877-8000
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Bahamas	800-777	France	99-0087	Latvia	0037-15	Switzerland	0041-88-0877
Barbados	1-800-366-6666	Germany	0130-0013	Lithuania	0037-15	Taiwan	00886-88-0877
Belize	1-800-623-0577	Greece	0035-1-0284	Malaysia	0060-115	Thailand	0066-88-0877
Bermuda	0800-10004	Honduras	950-1366	Netherlands	0031-235-0233	United Kingdom (London)	0044-88-0877
Bermuda	1-800-623-0577	Hungary	0036-1-0284	Netherlands (Amsterdam)	0031-235-0233	United Kingdom (Manchester)	0044-88-0877
Bolivia	0800-3333	Iceland	00354-1-0284	Netherlands (Rotterdam)	0031-235-0233	USA	1-800-877-8000
Brazil	0800-8016	India	0091-11-0284	Netherlands (The Hague)	0031-235-0233	USA (Hawaii)	8-100-43
British Virgin Islands	1-800-877-8000	Indonesia	0062-21-0284	Netherlands (Utrecht)	0031-235-0233	USA (Maine)	8-100-43
Bulgaria	00359-2-010	Japan	0081-3-0284	Netherlands (Zwolle)	0031-235-0233	USA (New York)	8-100-43
Canada	1-800-877-8000	Korea	0082-2-0284	Netherlands (Zwolle)	0031-235-0233	USA (San Francisco)	8-100-43
Cayman Islands	1-800-366-6666	Latvia	0037-15	Netherlands (Zwolle)	0031-235-0233	USA (Seattle)	8-100-43
Chile	0056-117	Lebanon	00961-3-0284	Netherlands (Zwolle)	0031-235-0233	USA (Vancouver)	8-100-43
China	0086-10-0123	Liechtenstein	00423-1	Netherlands (Zwolle)	0031-235-0233		
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THE AMERICAS

Clinton
To Lobby
For ForceEffort to Send
Troops to Bosnia

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton will make a televised address on Monday night in an effort to build public and congressional support for his plan to send 20,000 American troops to help NATO police the Bosnia peace agreement, the White House announced.

As a result, Mr. Clinton will delay until Tuesday his planned departure to England, Northern Ireland, Ireland and Spain, and will add a stop on Dec. 2 to visit U.S. troops stationed in Germany who would be among the first sent to Bosnia.

While the administration has said it will take steps to reduce the risk to American troops sent to Bosnia, Mr. Clinton's spokesman, Michael D. McCurry, said the president would make it clear that it is expected that some soldiers may die, but that peace in the Balkans is a cause worth dying for when the possible alternative is a broader war in Europe.

"I think it is incumbent upon the commander in chief to make that case clearly, because everyone is well aware of the test — it's often called the 'mother test': What do you say to the mother of a young man who's lost his life in pursuit of this peace agreement?" Mr. McCurry said. "But that is a risk that this president believes is well worth taking because of the enormous consequences at stake here."

As it began its campaign to gain acceptance of the plan in a mostly hostile Congress, the White House framed the debate like this: Without U.S. military involvement, the peace accord simply would not work, the fighting would erupt again and Europe would face a wider, more deadly war.

"I think it becomes a lot clearer for the American people what's at stake here," Mr. McCurry said. "It's literally peace vs. war. You either want the United States to participate in helping keep the peace the parties have agreed to, or you want the war to continue."

General Dennis Reimer, chief of staff of the army, which would do the lion's share of the work in Bosnia, said U.S. troops were well trained but still vulnerable.

"If we make a commitment to this, we've got to expect some type of casualties," General Reimer said. "We've got to be able to withstand those casualties." He made no estimate of how many might get killed.

If, as expected, Mr. Clinton approves U.S. military participation in the NATO force in the next few days, NATO's political arm, the North Atlantic Council, could give its blessing as early as next Wednesday.

That could trigger deployment within days of an "enabling force" of about 1,500 U.S. and other troops to Bosnia to clear the way for the arrival of the main NATO force of about 60,000 troops. (NYT, AP)

POLITICAL NOTES



BIG BIRD SPARED — President Bill Clinton accepting a turkey from the National Turkey Foundation. It was granted amnesty and donated to a children's petting zoo.

Pugnacious Republicans

WASHINGTON — Republican congressional leaders sent a blunt demand to President Bill Clinton that he present, by early next week, a precise plan for living up to his agreement that he would seek to balance the budget within seven years.

White House officials irritably dismissed the ultimatum, saying it was clear that Republicans had reverted to the combativeness and brinkmanship that led to the temporary shutdown of the government. Although Mr. Clinton has yet to show how he would eliminate deficits in seven years, his aides countered that Republicans have yet to show how they will protect Medicare and Medicaid — which they committed to do as part of the agreement that got the government running again.

If anything, the new bluster offered a vivid demonstration of just how little distance has actually been closed between the two sides, despite the brief flutter of cooperation that led to the passage of a spending measure that will keep the government running until Dec. 15. Each side is fastening to the part of the accord that it likes.

About all they could agree on was that talks were likely to start Tuesday.

In their letter to Bill Clinton, Newt Gingrich of Georgia, the House speaker, and the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole of Kansas, noted that Mr. Clinton had pledged to veto the Republicans' recently passed seven-year budget, but said the president had not yet spelled out what he would do in its place.

"Since you have not presented a balanced budget plan to Congress, we will need your specific legislative proposals on how you would accomplish balance in seven years differently from the bill you intend to veto," they wrote. "We cannot begin to resolve our differences until we first know what they are."

To assure that negotiations proceed promptly, "it is necessary to have a response to our legislation early next week," they added.

The White House press secretary, Michael McCurry, said it was clear the Republicans were "back to square one in the rhetoric and negotiating tactics." (WP)

Backlash on Gingrich

WASHINGTON — Newt Gingrich's re-

marks blaming the "welfare state" for the murders of an Illinois woman and her two children drew criticism from relatives of the victims and from Democrats.

Speaking to Republican governors in New Hampshire, Mr. Gingrich said: "Let's talk about what the welfare state has created. Let's talk about the moral decay of the world the left is defending."

With a newspaper account in his hand, he told of the killing last week of Debra Evans, whose assailants slashed open her abdomen and removed her unborn child, and also killed her 10-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son. Two men and a woman have been charged with murdering Ms. Evans because they wanted a baby.

"What's gone wrong is a welfare system which subsidizes people for doing nothing," Mr. Gingrich said. "A criminal system which tolerated drug dealers, an educational system which allows kids to not learn and which rewards tenured teachers who can't teach while destroying poor children who are trapped in a process with no hope."

In the Chicago suburb of Roseville, relatives of Ms. Evans who had gathered for her funeral denounced Mr. Gingrich.

"It's terrible to use this for politics," said Sam Evans, the father of the murdered woman. "It's an outrage."

Her mother, Jacalyn Arnold, said: "The people who did this were sick. Debra was on welfare, but she was one of the most caring people in the world. Even though she was on welfare she opened her house to people. She gave other people food when she didn't have much."

Several Democrats seized on the speaker's comments to paint the Georgia Republican as intemperate. Michael McCurry, the White House press secretary, said, "He was just carrying on the way he often does." (NYT)

Quote / Unquote

President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore in an open letter to federal workers who were furloughed during partial government shutdown last week: "We can't promise you that your jobs and your lives won't be interrupted again. Too much is at stake. If you are held hostage again, we know you would not want us to forfeit the nation's future as ransom." (WP)

Cost of Shutdown: \$700 Million Plus
And the White House Braces for Another ShowdownBy David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — As the administration considered its strategy for next week's budget negotiations with Congress, the White House disclosed that the government shutdown last week cost taxpayers \$700 million to \$800 million. And it said it could not promise federal workers that another shutdown would not happen again in a few weeks.

Roughly half of the estimated costs, White House officials said Wednesday, are the salaries of the 800,000 workers furloughed for four work days. As in the past, they will be paid for the time they were sent home. The other half consists of lost revenues, some of which may be recovered.

At the same time, Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin disclosed that the ad-

ministration was developing plans to keep paying the nation's bills into early next year in the event that Congress refuses to raise the nation's borrowing limit as part of the negotiations over a balanced budget.

At a breakfast with reporters, Mr. Rubin also hinted at President Bill Clinton's strategy in those negotiations, saying the administration would seek to bridge the huge gulf between congressional and White House economic assumptions and to pare down the Republicans' proposed tax cut.

Other administration officials say they have no indication that the first- and second-term Republicans in Congress, who have clung in the Congressional Budget Office's economic assumptions as an article of faith, are willing to find a middle ground between those numbers and the figures used by the administration.

The congressional estimates about how

the economy will perform are less optimistic than those of the Office of Management and Budget, which the White House prefers, and would require far deeper cuts to reach a balanced budget in seven years. But Mr. Rubin acknowledged Wednesday that any estimates that reach seven years into the future are by their nature a bit fanciful.

Asked if there was any way to balance the budget in that time period — one of the goals specified in the agreement reached last weekend — without abandoning the Congressional Budget Office figures, a senior administration official thought for a second and then said simply, "No."

Nor does it appear likely that Congress is about to act soon on raising the debt limit, in part because Republicans believe the prospect of default gives them additional leverage in budget negotiations.

Geneticists Closing In on 'Adam'

By John Noble Wilford
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In new genetic studies of modern human origins, scientists think they have found strong evidence that there was an ancestral "Adam" about 188,000 years ago to go with the previously discovered "Eve."

The scientists used certain male-specific segments of the Y chromosome, the chromosome passed from father to son, to trace the common ancestor of every man now on Earth to that period. They are reporting the findings on Thursday in the journal Nature, which also includes a separate study placing Adam in a more recent time.

Earlier analysis of the DNA of the mitochondria, the tiny structures within each cell that generate its energy and that are transmitted only by the mother, indicated that all humans have as a common ancestor one woman who lived in Africa about 200,000 years ago, who has been named Eve. All human mitochondrial DNA now extant, it seemed, derived from a single ancestral mitochondrial molecule from that place and time.

A corresponding Adam has been harder to track down. A

report earlier this year by scientists at Yale University and other institutions, that also analyzed part of the Y chromosome, concluded that modern Homo sapiens could have descended from a small group of male ancestors who lived about 270,000 years ago, since revised to an estimate of 160,000 to 180,000 years.

They explored a different site in the Y chromosome and concluded that more research must be conducted on other segments of the human genome to establish a fairly recent origin of modern humans.

Scientists at the University of Arizona in Tucson and Cambridge University in England now report the new and possibly more definitive evidence for the date of the Y chromosome Adam.

In one report, Michael F. Hammer, a scientist at Arizona, estimated the time back to a common ancestral human Y chromosome to be 188,000 years, reasonably close to the time for the common mitochondrial ancestor.

Many males were around at the time, but only one left a Y chromosome legacy that persists today. Likewise, many females were living at the time of the woman whose mitochondrial DNA was ancestral to all people today. The two could have lived at slightly different times.

They were probably two random individuals in the small population of early humans, some of whose genes happen to have persisted in the lottery of procreation while those of their contemporaries failed to survive.

The continent where this ancestor lived has not been determined, Mr. Hammer said, although some further research not yet published pointed to an African origin.

In the other Nature report, L. Simon Whitfield, a graduate student in genetics at Cambridge, described research showing a more recent time for the common Y chromosome ancestor — 37,000 to 49,000 years ago.

Mr. Whitfield conducted his work in the laboratory of Dr. Peter N. Goodfellow, a Cambridge professor of genetics. The Cambridge sample was also too

small to make any inferences about the place where the Y chromosome Adam lived. But Mr. Hammer and other specialists in genetic studies of human origins said the research supported the hypothesis that anatomically modern Homo sapiens evolved in Africa and then spread to Asia and Europe, replacing more archaic Homo species.

Away From
Politics

• A problem with an Atlas rocket delayed the launching of a U.S.-European mission to study the sun. A faulty fuel regulator stopped the countdown two hours before liftoff. There will be a delay of at least two days, NASA said. (AP)

• Denouncing the AIDS policies of the administration of Governor George Pataki, the director of the New York state AIDS Institute, Dr. Nilsa Gutierrez, said she was resigning to protest anticipated budget cuts that would "dismantle HIV care in New York state." She said she had been told to find ways to cut the institute's \$180-million budget by up to 20 percent next year. (NYT)

• The nation's largest for-profit manager of public schools suffered a serious blow when Baltimore officials said they were canceling their contract with the company, Education Alternatives Inc., to manage 12 city schools. (NYT)

Canada Passes Tough Anti-Gun Bill

Reuters

OTTAWA — The Canadian Senate gave final approval to gun-control legislation that is among the toughest in North America.

The Senate, the unelected upper chamber of the Parliament, rejected amendments that would have softened the legislation passed in June by the elected House of Commons. The vote Wednesday was the last legal hurdle for the bill.

"It's an illustration of our strong will to chart our own course as a country," Justice Minister Alan Rock said, "one which is different from that chosen by our American neighbors."

The bill will require all firearms to be licensed and entered into a national gun registry, and will make it a crime to refuse to do so.

The measure seeks to curb

gun smuggling from the United States and will tighten penalties for the use of guns in crime.

It was one of the most important pieces of legislation backed by the two-year-old Liberal government of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

"I'm very pleased," he said. "It's a piece of legislation that was needed and was desired by the people of Canada."

Mr. Chrétien had disciplined rural members of his party who had chosen to listen to their constituents — especially farmers and hunters — and vote against the party line, but he was easily able to win in the House of Commons.

The populist Reform Party had fought hard against the bill in the Commons and pledged to make it an issue in the next federal election, which must be held by 1998 before the 2003 deadline for everybody to reg-

ister their arms. "We will make it an issue in the next elections," said the Reform Party's spokesman on the gun-control issue, Jack Ramsay, who is a former policeman.

Canada already requires handguns to be registered but will now require rifles and shotguns — a number Mr. Ramsay estimated at between 7 million and 21 million — also to be registered.

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ASIA

'A Get-Together Among Friends'

Hong Kong Bureaucrats to Meet Beijing Aides

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HONG KONG — Hong Kong civil servants and Chinese officials will have their first informal meeting next week in a series of contacts to help smooth the way for the British colony's return to Chinese rule, the government announced Thursday.

The announcement was an upbeat contrast to the latest shock to hit Hong Kong — a suggestion this week that China will set up a provisional government and legislature in the British colony well before the July 1, 1997, handover.

The exploratory meetings will get under way next Thursday despite that and other sore spots in relations between Beijing and the British colonial administration, underlined recently by controversies over guarantees of human rights and

over the level of democracy. The series of contacts results from a recent visit to London by the Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen.

The Hong Kong government said in a statement that it had consulted the Xinhua press agency's Hong Kong Branch, Beijing's de facto embassy, and decided to send six senior officials in charge of housing, education and labor to the first meeting.

It will be held at an unofficial location, the Hong Kong Jockey Club clubhouse at the Happy Valley horse racing track.

The agreement to hold the informal meetings was made when Mr. Qian was in London in October, the highest-level visit by a Chinese official to Britain in three years.

The meetings are intended to allow officials from Hong

Kong and China to get to know each other and have no fixed agenda, said the Secretary for the Civil Service, Michael Sze, who will attend next week's meeting.

"It's a get-together among friends," Mr. Sze told reporters. "For example, if you invite me home for supper, would you say to me, 'Look, this is what I want to talk to you about?' No, you don't do that, you just look where the spirit takes you."

China will send officials to the meeting from Beijing's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs office, the Chinese-British Joint Liaison Group, and the local Xinhua branch, government radio said.

Mr. Sze said that the meetings were not job interviews for civil servants hoping to serve beyond 1997. He said that such

interviews would come after a new chief executive was named next year.

The new chief executive, Mr. Sze said, would need to interview who planned to stay on, "to see if they were the sort of people he would want to work closely with."

And they "would also want to find out whether or not they want to work for this guy, or lady," Mr. Sze said.

However, disputes over human rights and the possible creation of a pro-Beijing shadow government before 1997 were simmering behind the rare show of public cooperation.

The government has issued a point-by-point rebuttal to a statement by Hong Kong's chief justice that the local Bill of Rights overrode other laws and threatened to create chaos.

The chief justice, Sir Ti Lian Yang, had been forced to make his statement after a senior Xinhua official leaked the judge's opinion, which had been expressed at a private dinner, in an effort to shore up Beijing's contention that the Bill of Rights had to be watered down.

Mr. Sze also attempted to play down another conflict that broke out this week when a senior Chinese adviser said he believed a shadow government would be set up before 1997.

"There is a saying in English, one swallow doesn't make a summer," Mr. Sze said. "One night doesn't make a shadow government."

The Hong Kong governor, Chris Patten, said Wednesday that he would oppose any attempt by China to set up a government-in-waiting ahead of the 1997 handover, as predicted by Sir Sze Yuen Chung, a senior adviser to Beijing on the transition.

(Reuters, AP)



Han Dongfang, a Chinese activist, calling Wednesday in Hong Kong for China-policy reviews over the Wei case.

Germany Reveals Offer Of Asylum to Chinese

BONN — Germany castigated China on Thursday for arresting a leading dissident and said it had quietly offered last month to give the dissident, Wei Jingsheng, asylum in Germany if Beijing would let him go.

After a lively debate on Bonn's China policy, Parliament unanimously passed a resolution supporting Mr. Wei and calling for his unconditional release.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who has come under criticism over a visit to China last week, joined in backing Mr. Wei. But he also defended his contacts with Beijing as a way to help foster reform.

"The German Parliament is dismayed about the so-called formal arrest of the prominent Chinese dissident Wei Jingsheng after he was held for 19 months in illegal detention," the resolution said.

Mr. Wei's arrest was announced Tuesday, only days af-

Rebels Capture Base Near Kabul

KABUL — The Taliban rebel militia captured an important Afghan government military stronghold east of Kabul as it stepped up its drive to seize the capital, defense officials said Thursday.

The Islamic militia overran five more kilometers (three miles) of government-held territory, the Defense Ministry said, but claims that the Taliban had taken a strategically crucial village were found to be untrue.

The Taliban fighters took over a former jail converted into an army base in Pul-i-Charkhi, officials said, when the government commander and his men switched to the militia side and handed over the base.

The rebels also claimed they had taken the town of Pul-i-Charkhi. (AFP)

China Said to Plan Exercises

HONG KONG — China is to hold further military exercises off its southeastern coast, ahead of Taiwan's parliamentary election next month, it was reported Thursday.

Quoting Chinese military sources, the Sing Tao Daily News said the large-scale air, land and sea exercises would take place on Dongshan Dao, off Fujian Province, whose coast is about 180 kilometers (112 miles) from Taiwan.

The report said the military exercises, which would be held on the eve of Taiwan's legislative polls on Dec. 2, would, for the first time, involve armed police and militias.

It said Beijing was still reviewing the situation and would announce the military exercises "when the time is ripe." Observers said they believed the exercises were aimed at disrupting Taiwan's parliamentary elections. (AFP)

UN Sends North Korea Food Aid

ROME — The United Nations World Food Program on Thursday said it had sent unprecedented food relief to North Korea in response to an appeal for aid from the Communist government after devastating floods.

A statement said the shipment of 5,140 tons of rice for distribution among 500,000 people left destitute by this year's heavy rains "represents the first UN food aid ever sent to the country."

The shipment was due to arrive at the North Korean port of Nampo Friday on a chartered Russian freighter, a spokesman for the Rome-based agency said.

He said Nampo was normally closed to foreigners for security reasons but that the North Koreans were "more than willing to allow WFP monitors to be at the port" and follow the aid "all the way to the provinces" where it would be distributed.

Flash floods in July and August, described by the food program as North Korea's worst for 100 years, destroyed homes, farmland and food stocks in rural areas of the north-west and west. (Reuters)

Korean Financier Questioned

SEOUL — South Korean state prosecutors said Thursday that they were questioning a financial wizard on allegations that he may have played a role in helping former President Roh Tae Woo build up a \$654-million secret slush fund.

Interrogation of Lee Won Jo, former head of the country's bank watchdog, was concentrated on "allegations he helped Roh illegally amass secret funds," a prosecution official said.

Mr. Lee, also a former member of Parliament, was called the "emperor of Seoul's Wall Street" during Mr. Roh's 1988-93 presidency because of his influence over the financial industry.

On Thursday, as a group of 100 people rallied outside the prosecution building demanding Mr. Roh be severely punished, the senior prosecutor, Ahn Kang Min, said Mr. Lee was "a witness, not a suspect." (Reuters)

For the Record

Cambodian police found 17 guns during a search of the home of King Norodom Sihanouk's detained half-brother, Prince Norodom Sirivudh, but his wife said on Thursday that all of them were licensed. (Reuters)

India on Thursday announced its biggest public health campaign aimed at immunizing nearly 80 million children against polio to help global efforts to eradicate the disease by the year 2000. (AFP)

VOICES From Asia

Shen Guofang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman: "The case of Wei Jingsheng is not a human rights case. Our judicial departments arrested him in accordance with independent investigations" following "proper judicial procedures." (Reuters)

Han Seung Soo, chief aide to President Kim Young Sam of South Korea, testifying before Parliament about a major political slush fund scandal: "President Kim has not received even a penny from anyone and will keep his word about it in the future." (Reuters)

Japan's Communication Gap

Leader Is Last to Learn of F-15 Blunder

TOKYO — Japan's government was under fire Thursday for its emergency-management system after the disclosure that the prime minister learned of a major air force accident from reporters six hours after the fact.

On Wednesday, a Japanese F-15 fighter crashed into the Japan Sea after being hit with a Sidewinder missile fired mistakenly by another Japanese F-15. The pilot of the stricken jet bailed out safely.

According to Japanese newspapers, officials decided not to

immediately inform Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama of the crash, and he did not learn about it until he was questioned by reporters at a session of Parliament.

"I haven't heard about that — I don't have the slightest idea," he responded.

The response to the crash recalled the government's widely criticized handling of the Kobe earthquake in January. Mr. Murayama learned of the quake from television news and took more than four hours to order troops to the scene to aid relief efforts.

The latest incident, commented the financial daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun, "has revealed that crisis management at the prime minister's office, which one might have supposed would improve after the Great Hanshin Earthquake, remains in a miserable state."

Government officials could not be reached Thursday to explain the delay in telling Mr. Murayama.

A spokesman for the Air Self-Defense Force said investigators believed that an electrical error caused the missile to be fired inadvertently.

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China Says Wei Arrest Is 'Not a Rights Case'

BEIJING — China defended its arrest of a prominent dissident on sedition charges and attacked foreign critics Thursday for what it called meddling in its internal affairs.

"The case of Wei Jingsheng is not a human rights case," the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang, said at a news briefing. Mr. Wei, was formally charged Wednesday.

"Our judicial departments arrested him in accordance with independent investigations," Mr. Shen said. "They went through proper judicial procedures."

Mr. Wei, 46, the father of China's embattled democracy movement, was a Nobel Peace Prize nominee this year. The announcement of his arrest for "engaging in activities to overthrow the government," a charge punishable by death, ended the long official silence

and legal limbo that has prevailed since he vanished 20 months ago.

Mr. Shen declined to address directly criticism that China violated its own laws and international standards by failing to charge Mr. Wei or notify his relatives for nearly 20 months after his April 1, 1994, arrest.

"I think our judicial departments' investigation of Wei Jingsheng's case did not violate any so-called international standards," he said. "On the contrary, it was some people, some organizations, that interfered in our judiciary process."

China has used intense lobbying of UN members to elude earlier drives to censure it on human rights grounds.

Human Rights Watch/Asia and other rights groups contend that Mr. Wei's lengthy detention without charge violated China's own regulations on detention. (Reuters, AP)

CROSSWORD

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Out-of-focus object</p> <p>5 Petal chewing.</p> <p>10 Stopper opener?</p>	<p>14 Margarita ingredient</p> <p>15 Shelled for now</p> <p>16 Egyptian cult</p> <p>17 Start of a quip</p> <p>20 Fivesome</p> <p>21 Phoebe, Rhea or Tethys</p>	<p>22 "Old" country</p> <p>24 Just in or just out</p> <p>25 Part 2 of quip</p> <p>26 Baseless?</p> <p>27 Day break</p> <p>30 Put on</p> <p>37 German equivalent of the Oscar</p> <p>38 Unsolicited manuscripts</p> <p>41 In this race, the runners are always behind</p> <p>42 Deliberate</p> <p>44 Old New Yorker cartoonist</p> <p>45 Olympian hawk</p> <p>46 Part 3 of quip</p> <p>50 Fabled sleeper, informally</p> <p>51 Cowboy or Indian</p> <p>52 Emerald City locale</p> <p>57 Behind</p> <p>62 End of quip</p> <p>64 Frank Herbert book series</p> <p>65 Cigar butts?</p> <p>66 Atlantic City attraction</p> <p>67 Diving duck</p> <p>68 Park purchases</p> <p>69 Air apparent?</p>	<p>11 Gargantuan</p> <p>12 Singer Phil</p> <p>13 Volstead Act opponents</p> <p>18 Lighter</p> <p>19 Noted criminologist with an apt-sounding name</p> <p>23 Ring up</p> <p>25 Supermodel</p> <p>26 Mandelstam's</p> <p>28 In E flat major</p> <p>32 Bjorn competitor</p> <p>35 Cry (Mush Ray #1 hit)</p> <p>37 Cold-shoulder</p> <p>38 Man of the world</p> <p>39 Bull: Prefix</p> <p>40 Incited, with "on"</p> <p>43 "Don't You Know" songstress</p> <p>45 Slip through the cracks</p> <p>46 Bald</p> <p>48 Spasm</p> <p>49 Tower designer</p> <p>50 Alexandria</p> <p>51 City north of Lisbon</p> <p>52 Jordan's Queen</p>
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Puzzle by Bob Kahn

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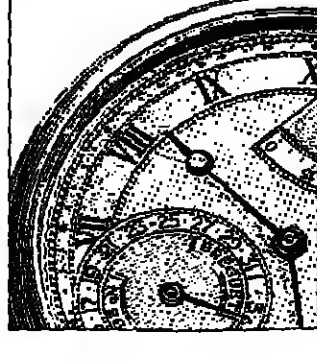
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QARED	FALREST	
ASTROS	NONE	AGE
GRAYVIL	ATUM	
ATTIA	BOISE	SOUP
GAOL	VIANTS	AFRO

EUROPE

Showdown on Social Policy

Millions to Join Walkout in France

The Associated Press

PARIS — Millions of French workers were set to strike Friday in the biggest challenge to date to the conservative government's social policies.

The strike, billed as the biggest since 1986, was expected to involve most of France's 5 million public-service employees and thousands of others who have decided to join the protests.

Strike organizers aimed to shut down train, subway and bus services, as well as post offices, banks, government offices and most schools. Hospitals will handle only emergency services.

The walkout, called by the powerful public service unions upset over the government's plan to reform the social security system, will be the second such labor action in as many months. A third strike is planned for Tuesday.

A poll released Thursday indicated that a majority of the French public supported the strikers. But 56 percent of those polled agreed with a part of the reform plan that would extend the number of years public employees must pay into the system before retirement to bring it into line with the private sector.

In the survey, conducted by the CSA polling institute and

published by the Paris daily *Le Parisien*, 65 percent of those questioned declared they would either take part in or support a general strike to protest the reforms.

Only 19 percent said they were hostile to a strike.

The poll of 1,000 people was taken Nov. 20 to 22. No margin of error was given.

The social security reform is designed to eliminate a 230 billion franc (\$46 billion) deficit within 10 years. Prime Minister Alain Juppé hopes to cut the projected 60 billion franc 1996 social security deficit by half and to avoid a deficit in 1997.

In addition to extending the time that public employees must pay into the system by two and a half years, the reform plan calls for new taxes and stricter controls over the prescription of medicines.

Railroad workers are protesting a planned contract that calls for additional layoffs and the closing of thousands of kilometers of unprofitable routes.

Post office and telephone workers are unhappy over plans to partly privatize the public services, while students at many universities have voted to continue their strike to press for better conditions and more teachers.

Chirac Gains in Poll

An opinion poll released Thursday showed the popularity of President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Alain Juppé picking up sharply from a record low, Reuters reported from Paris.

The Ipsos survey, to be published in the weekly *Le Point* on Saturday, indicated that the percentage of voters satisfied with Mr. Chirac had rebounded to 22 percent from 14 percent a month ago.

Mr. Juppé's popularity also rose 8 points, to 20 percent from 12 percent.

It was the first poll showing the standing of either leader clearly reversing a steady decline since they came to power six months ago.

A conflicting BVA poll released Wednesday showed Mr. Chirac's support still falling, down to 32 percent from 36 percent the previous month, and Mr. Juppé's approval rating unchanged at 29 percent.



Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, center, being greeted by the German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, in Bonn on Thursday.

Perry Calls Dane 'Strong Candidate'

Reuters

COPENHAGEN — The U.S. defense secretary, William J. Perry, said Thursday that Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Denmark's nominee for the job of NATO secretary-general, was "a very strong candidate."

"There are several candidates for the job of NATO general secretary," Mr. Perry said. He named Foreign Minister Javier Solana Madariaga of Spain as one of them and added, "The Danish candidate, Ellemann-Jensen, is another. Ellemann-Jensen is a very strong candidate for the job."

Mr. Perry was speaking to reporters shortly before he left Copenhagen. Mr. Perry said he expected North Atlantic Treaty Organization foreign ministers to make a final decision at their

annual meeting in Brussels on Dec. 5.

"I hope and expect that at the foreign ministers' meeting the week after next they will come to a decision," he said.

Mr. Perry and Mr. Ellemann-Jensen, a former foreign minister, held an unscheduled 30-minute meeting here Wednesday evening.

The talks included Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen, the only declared candidate for the NATO position, said he had promised not to comment on his talks with Mr. Perry.

But later, Mr. Petersen said he believed the Danish candidate still had a strong chance of getting the job.

"Ellemann-Jensen has a realistic chance," Mr. Petersen said.

"I can say that after my meeting with Perry and after the NATO ambassadors' meeting."

NATO ambassadors met Wednesday in Brussels and discussed the vacant position, but Spain did not propose Mr. Solana for the top job despite expectations that it would do so.

"There was no mention of Solana," a diplomat said after the meeting.

"Spain has not preselected his candidacy."

The post of secretary-general fell vacant Oct. 20, when Willy Claes resigned over allegations of involvement in a corruption

scandal in his home country, Belgium.

Mr. Perry would not elaborate on his comment that there were "several" candidates in the running.

"It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the candidates while this process is going on," he said.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen has had the official field to himself since the former Dutch prime minister, Ruud Lubbers, withdrew from contention when the United States signaled he was not acceptable.

With France not apparently keen on the Dane, Mr. Solana has been mentioned as a possible candidate, and Spain had been widely expected to promote his candidacy.

Irish Vote On Divorce With Polls Narrowing

The Associated Press

DUBLIN — Ireland votes Friday on whether to amend its constitution to permit divorce, a debate that has pitted church against state.

Opinion polls this week showed a nation split almost evenly. Some 2.6 million people are eligible to vote. The result is expected to be announced Saturday.

The referendum is the culmination of nine years' work by four Irish governments since 1986, when Ireland voted nearly 2 to 1 against legalizing divorce. This time all five major political parties back the change, which makes the strong grass-roots opposition all the more remarkable.

"I doubt if you'd have anything like this in any other country in Europe, where virtually every single politician is urging a yes vote, yet the people are very nearly saying no," said Senator Shane Ross. "It's an extraordinary situation."

Article 41 of the constitution, adopted in 1937, says: "No law shall be enacted providing for the grant of a dissolution of marriage." It makes Ireland the only Western nation that bans divorce.

The proposed 15th amendment would allow divorce for couples who have been separated for four years out of five and who could demonstrate "no reasonable prospect of a reconciliation."

In 1986, an early pro-divorce lead in opinion polls collapsed before the vote, chiefly because there were no laws governing property rights, spouse support and children's welfare.

That legislation has since been enacted, but polls indicate that Roman Catholic teaching retains its hold over large segments of opinion, particularly in rural areas.

An October poll showed 62 percent in favor of permitting divorce, but the most recent survey, published Tuesday, put support at 45 percent versus 42 percent.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Plutonium Smuggler Convicted

KONSTANZ, Germany — A German businessman was convicted Thursday of smuggling plutonium and sentenced to five and a half years in prison.

Adolf Jaekle, 54, was the fourth person this year in Germany to be convicted on the charge. In July, three men — two Spaniards and a Colombian — were convicted of smuggling plutonium from Russia.

The police found nearly six grams (two-tenths of an ounce) of plutonium in Mr. Jaekle's garage. Seizures of nuclear materials in Germany and elsewhere in Europe have raised concerns that dangerous substances that could be used by terrorists were leaving the former Soviet Union. (AP)

EU Citizens Feel Uninformed

BRUSSELS — European Union citizens support eastward expansion but have little idea what the EU bureaucracy is doing about it, according to a poll released Thursday.

The poll, conducted in all 15 EU nations, found that the majority of those questioned supported membership for Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia and Latvia.

But it found that only one in five persons knew that the Union planned to open talks next spring on a treaty that would pave the way for expansion. (AP)

Turks in Germany Attacked

BONN — Firebombers attacked Turkish targets in Germany for a second consecutive night, damaging property but causing no injuries, the police said Thursday.

In the western town of Ahlen, vandals set fire to two cars and a Turkish tea house. In the nearby city of Dortmund, the front of a Turkish cultural center was set on fire but the blaze was quickly extinguished. Turks have been among the main targets of attacks since German reunification in 1990. The authorities have blamed separatist Kurdish extremists for most of the attacks. (Reuters)

A Socialist Setback in Seville

SEVILLE — The Socialist president of Andalusia has dissolved the regional Parliament more than two years ahead of schedule.

Manuel Chaves González was unable to muster enough votes to pass a 1996 budget and decided to call a regional election for early next year.

Andalusia, Spain's most populous region, is the home of the Spanish prime minister, Felipe González, and had long been a Socialist stronghold. (Reuters)

Spaniard Loses Immunity

MADRID — Spain's Parliament voted Thursday to lift the immunity of a former interior minister, José Barrionuevo, one of several political figures suspected of complicity in state-sponsored terrorism against Basque militants.

The vote, 204 to 122, marked the first time a member of former member of Spain's post-Franco government has been deprived of parliamentary immunity against prosecution.

Mr. Barrionuevo, the interior minister between 1982 and 1988, is suspected of having helped set up the Anti-Terrorism Liberation Group, which is believed responsible for at least 22 murders of Basque separatists from 1983 to 1987. (AFP)

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Friday:

BRUSSELS: The European Commission president, Jacques Santer, meets with Eddie Fenech Adami, the prime minister of Malta.

BRUSSELS: The commissioner for the internal market, Mario Monti, meets with the Slovak deputy prime minister, Jozeph Kalman.

BRUSSELS: Mr. Santer meets with a Japanese business leader, Shochiro Toyoda.

BRUSSELS: The transport commissioner, Neil Kinnock, takes part in a Siemens management forum.

BRUSSELS: The end of European Parliament hearings on domestic markets and monetary union.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP



The princess of Wales arriving Thursday at Buenos Aires.

Should Charles Reign? Britons Are Divided

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Britons are split on the issue of whether Prince Charles should become king after his estranged wife, Princess Diana, said she doubted he was committed to the role.

The poll, commissioned by Independent Television News, found that 43 percent thought Charles should take over when his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, dies — but an equal number thought he should not.

The Harris poll of 635 people also found that 63 percent thought the royal couple, both of whom have now confessed to adultery, should divorce.

Most of those questioned also said Diana's gamble to bare her soul on BBC television on Monday had paid off, with 79 percent saying she was right to do the interview.

Diana not only admitted to having had a love affair, but said she did not know how Charles would handle being king and accused the royal family of treating her like an enemy.

The prince is adamant that he will succeed his mother on the throne, but his admission last year that he had been unfaithful to Diana prompted suggestions that he act as regent until his 13-year-old son, Prince William, is old enough to reign. Diana said she did not want a divorce but would agree to one if Charles wished one.

Of those polled, 63 percent supported the couple's divorcing, while 24 were against. (Reuters, AP)

Diana Begins Visit to Argentina

Diana arrived in Argentina on Thursday to make her debut in her self-appointed role as roving ambassador for Britain, Reuters reported from Buenos Aires.

Most Argentines seemed indifferent to her visit, considering her a frivolous symbol of an anachronistic monarchy.

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INTERNATIONAL

Peres Was Next, Police Were Told Suspect Gave Account

By Joel Greenberg
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — A prime suspect in the killing of Yitzhak Rabin told interrogators that Prime Minister Shimon Peres had been next in line for assassination, a police representative said Thursday in a hearing at the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

The suspect, Dror Adani, a yeshiva student from the West Bank settlement of Beit Hagai, is accused of plotting to kill Mr. Rabin with the confessed assassin, Yigal Amir, and his brother, Hagai Amir. Mr. Adani denies the charges.

Reading from the transcript of Mr. Adani's interrogation, Chief Inspector Aryeh Silber-

man said: "He was asked: 'I understand that your ultimate aim was to strike at both Rabin and Peres and in this way to stop the peace process.' His answer: 'Let's say that they were both defined as murderers whose judgment is death, but we didn't decide who was first. Perhaps if we would have seen that Rabin

is going easily, we would have continued on to Peres.'"

In another transcript read to the court, Mr. Adani said that Yigal Amir had defined Mr. Rabin as a "pursuer" under Jewish law, or a mortal threat who should be killed.

"Yigal said that Rabin was subject to the judgment of the pursuer and must be killed," Mr. Adani was quoted as saying. "We had ideas like attaching explosives to Rabin's car or attacking him with their weapon, with their pistol." He was referring to a pistol owned by Yigal Amir.

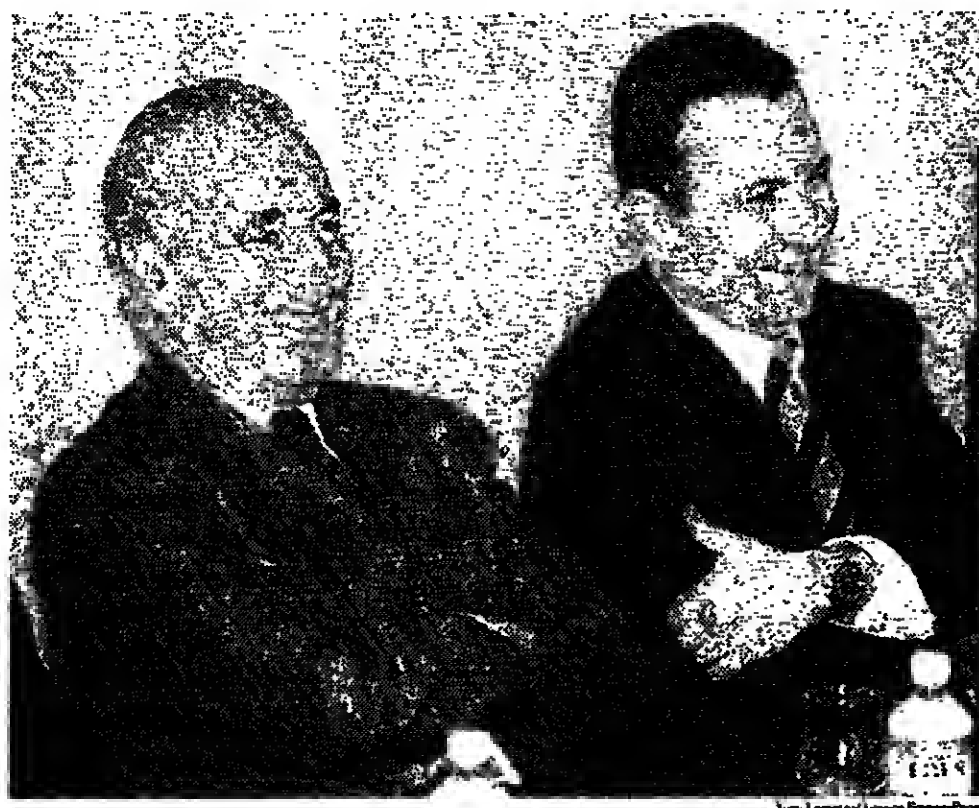
A lawyer for Mr. Adani told the court that his client had consulted with an unidentified rabbi who heads a yeshiva on whether Mr. Rabin could be defined as a "pursuer" under Jewish law. "The unequivocal answer of that rabbi was that it is forbidden to murder a Jew, certainly not the prime minister," the lawyer said. "Dror gave this message to Yigal Amir."

Mr. Amir has claimed that he was required to kill Mr. Rabin under Jewish law because the slain prime minister was putting Jewish lives and land in jeopardy by handing over much of the West Bank to Palestinian self-rule, a step Mr. Amir said would lead to war.

"There is an order more important than 'Thou shalt not kill' and that is to save a life," Mr. Amir said in a court appearance on Nov. 6. "When you kill in a war, it is a negative act, but aim is supreme so it is permitted."

On Thursday, Mr. Adani and Hagai Amir were remanded in custody in separate hearings until Nov. 30, when police expect to issue indictments.

At least eight other religious Jews have been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy or planning attacks on Arabs.



Shimon Peres, left, and his new foreign minister, Ehud Barak, Thursday in Jerusalem.

Syria Calls for 'Concrete Acts' After Israel Appeals for Peace

Agence France-Presse

DAMASCUS — Syria called on Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel on Thursday to turn his words of peace into action after he appealed to Damascus to help forge a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

"The peace process requires concrete acts, not words," said the ruling party newspaper, Al Ba'ath.

Mr. Peres, who for now holds the reins of power in Israel practically on his own, should make the most of favorable international circumstances to implement his policy of peace.

On Wednesday, Mr. Peres made an appeal in Parliament for President Hafez Assad of Syria to help build a comprehensive peace in the region.

The successor to Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated at a Tel Aviv peace rally on Nov. 4, addressed his words to Mr. Assad: "You have to understand that the logic of war is over. I ask you to help build peace."

Al Ba'ath said: "He must go beyond the negative positions of Rabin and adopt a new attitude in line with the principles of the peace process, especially that of exchanging all land, and

not just part of it, for peace. "He must have the nerve to stress that it is impossible to achieve progress without a full Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967."

Israeli-Syrian talks ground to a halt in June after military chiefs failed to agree to security arrangements for any Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war. Mr. Peres has indicated he is ready to discuss all the problems dogging the Syrian track, unlike Mr. Rabin, who insisted that the security aspect should be resolved first.

The Syrian government newspaper Al-Thawra said Israel's willingness to talk peace would be tested in the coming weeks.

"Actions are more important than words," it said.

Papandreou Improving

The Associated Press

ATHENS — Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou's health was reported Thursday to be steadily improving, but doctors were unable to say when the ailing 76-year-old Socialist leader would be released from the hospital.

PEACE: NATO Force Has Oversight of Civilian and Military Life

Continued from Page 1

within 120 days move all heavy weapons into designated places. The force "has a very, very broad range of authority that should enable it to do its tasks."

Lieutenant General Wesley Clark, director of strategic plans and policy for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Wednesday.

"We can't discount the possibility that some elements may resist," General Clark said, adding that those who do will "suffer the consequences."

Nevertheless, the assumption of so much responsibility and authority by the multinational force points up how abrupt and awkward the transition may be from a relatively weakly supported United Nations peacekeeping operation in Bosnia to one in which U.S. forces are expected to form about one-third of a total of about 60,000 troops.

While the comprehensive nature of the military's authority will probably impress members

of Congress worried about risks to U.S. troops, the scope of their responsibility, particularly in nonmilitary areas, has been raised in Capitol Hill as a major concern. Members of both parties have expressed skepticism about getting stuck in a prolonged, unpopular engagement reminiscent of Vietnam.

In an explicit recognition that violence may eventually break out, peacekeepers are held harmless in the accord for any damage to property caused "by combat or combat-related activities."

The accord creates at least three new centers of power in Bosnia held by foreigners, in addition to establishing a local Parliament and presidency. The NATO commander will run all military affairs for the duration of the Implementation Force deployment, a senior UN representative will oversee civilian matters, and a human rights ombudsman appointed by European leaders will have broad investigatory powers.

The Implementation Force commander will be the North

Atlantic Treaty Organization's supreme commander, General George A. Joulwan of the U.S. Army. He is to operate "under the authority and subject to the direction and political control" of the North Atlantic Council, a governing body of NATO ambassadors.

UN officials are to have jurisdiction or authority for the force, although the deployment is to be endorsed by the Security Council.

In Bosnia, the commander is empowered to demand that the parties to the agreement surrender any information "of a military nature" that he wants.

He can also do anything he judges "necessary and proper" to protect the international force and carry out its responsibilities, according to the accord.

The commander is charged with ensuring that the warring factions relocate all their military command posts next to the multinational force's command posts, shut all air defense systems, move all heavy weapons

into designated barracks, and disarm and disband all armed civilian groups, national guards, army reserves, and military and special police, as the accord provides.

The peacekeepers will have authority to arrest any persons indicted for war crimes whom they encounter, but they will not try to track them down, U.S. officials said.

Any problems or questions are to be addressed first by a joint commission composed of the force commander, the senior military commanders of the three local parties to the accord, the senior UN representative, and anyone else the NATO commander chooses.

The peace accord hands substantial power over civilian matters to a High Representative, to ensure the smooth delivery of humanitarian aid, oversee the return of property to refugees, orchestrate the country's reconstruction and inform the Security Council if any party violates any of its military requirements.

SERBS: A Persuasive Milosevic

Continued from Page 1

Hague. Under the plan, indicted officials have to step down and all the parties have pledged to "cooperate" with the war-crimes investigators, although the signatories to the plan did not go so far as to pledge extradition.

The Yugoslav government has several legal loopholes that it can use to postpone or avoid that move if Mr. Milosevic decides that sending General Mladic or Mr. Karadzic to the Hague might result in his own indictment.

For example, the Yugoslavian Constitution bans the extradition of its citizens for trial in a foreign court. The Constitution would have to be changed before extraditions were carried out and, given a sufficient amount of bureaucratic wrangling, that could take years or even fail.

Another question that is unanswered is why did Mr. Karadzic agree to a plan that is tantamount to political suicide.

First, under this plan, almost all of the Serbian-occupied suburbs of Sarajevo will be returned to Muslim control. That is where Mr. Karadzic has his power base.

Second, agreeing to the plan also means that Mr. Karadzic has to step down as the "president" of his self-proclaimed state because of his war-crimes indictment.

According to a former senior official with the Bosnian Serbs, Mr. Karadzic, a psychiatrist from Sarajevo, did not have much of a choice.

On Wednesday, his last hope of constructing some type of united front with the Bosnian Serbian military against the peace plan evaporated when the army issued a statement backing the Dayton deal.

That statement, put out by Milan Gvero, second-in-command of Serbian forces in Bosnia, was a blunt indication to Mr. Karadzic that the men with the guns would not back his quest to wiggle out of the deal.

JAPAN: Robbers Thrive, as Checks and Credit Cards Are Mistrusted

Continued from Page 1

still very low by international standards, has been rising. The police have been issuing warnings to those who transport large amounts of cash not to travel alone and to change routes frequently.

So the robberies keep occurring. In late October, Satoshi Murao, 33, an employee of Fuji Bank, visited three customers to pick up cash for deposit. When he emerged from the last customer he was stripped of \$130,000.

When asked why people do not use checks, Japanese are likely to be puzzled by the question. "In a way, I wonder how Americans can trust personal

checks," said Seichiro Saito, a professor of economics at Rikkyo University. Accepting a check requires verifying or trusting the check writer's identity and financial resources. There are no such questions about cash, he said.

How hard it will be to break the cash habit might best be seen in the case of Toshio Miyaji, the president of Jonan Denki, a chain of discount electronics stores.

"I feel very lonely if I have less than 1 million yen in my pocket," he said, referring to an amount equal to \$10,000.

To make sure he never feels lonely, Mr. Miyaji's office contains an automatic cash-counting machine, the type normally

found in banks, which bundles 10,000-yen notes into packages worth 1 million yen and spins them out onto the floor. Every day, Mr. Miyaji's aides insert a bundle into his wallet.

But Mr. Miyaji is most famous for his Louis Vuitton attaché case, which can hold up to \$1 million in fresh 10,000-yen bills. He is often seen being driven around in a Rolls-Royce, dispensing bills from his attaché case to buy products for his stores. Paying cash, he said, allows him bigger discounts.

One would think this behavior would make Mr. Miyaji a conspicuous target. Sure enough, he has been robbed seven times, losing an amount equal to \$390,000.

In one case, his own driver made off with an amount equal to \$65,000 at those rates. "After spending all the money he committed suicide 10 days later," Miyaji recalled. He added that he blamed himself for tempting the poor driver by leaving his attaché case in the car.

Despite the robberies, the feisty Mr. Miyaji, 67, still carries cash around without security. "If I start worrying, it's just like closing down the store," he said.

He has, however, made a few changes. After he was robbed this week showed last year, he installed some burglar alarms there. And, oh yes, he now takes his attaché case with him when he leaves the car.



ENCOURAGING WORDS — A Ukrainian officer urging on a tired soldier during a three-kilometer run in full uniform and gear near Bila Tserkva, central Ukraine. The jog is part of a yearly physical training examination.

EGYPT: Islamists Get Jail Terms

Continued from Page 1

avowal of violence shares the militants' goal of an Islamic state.

In September, Mr. Mubarak for the first time began referring large numbers of Muslim Brothers to the military court on charges of "setting up the organizational structure of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood nationwide, in violation of the law, to urge the obstruction of the law and the constitution."

Last month, Mr. Mubarak referred another batch of Muslim Brothers to the court, including 16 who had announced their intention to run for Parliament for a total of 82.

The defendants' lawyers

subsequently quit the case, calling it a political trial. Amnesty International this week described the defendants as "prisoners of conscience."

Thursday, the panel of three uniformed judges sentenced five of the Muslim Brothers to five years hard labor, 40 to three years of hard labor and nine to three years in prison.

Among those receiving the harshest sentences were such prominent Brotherhood figures as Essam Eryani, assistant secretary-general of the Egyptian Doctors Association, and Abdelmonem Abdul Futouh Abdelhadi, assistant secretary-general of the Federation of Arab Doctors. The court acquitted 28 others.

GINGRICH: Image Gets in Way

Continued from Page 1

the same time, we want to say: "Don't give them ammunition. Don't give them superficial things that they can magnify."

Mr. Shays said he and other Gingrich loyalists had conveyed their concerns to the speaker, urging him to rest more and to focus his energies on broad strategy instead of day-to-day tactics.

Eddie Mabe, a Republican consultant and longtime friend of Mr. Gingrich's, said: "Anybody who's not worried about it is not being realistic. Having said that, whenever you're on the cutting edge of the fundamental change we're trying to put in place, it was inevitable that he

was going to have this problem, although clearly he's contributed to it with some of his less-than-wise statements."

A CBS News poll released this week showed that only 27 percent approved of Mr. Gingrich's performance in office compared with 59 percent who disapproved, including a plurality of Republicans.

Democrats say they view Mr. Gingrich's public persona as a source of political opportunity. Representative Martin Frost of Texas, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said: "We've been telling our challengers for some time now that their opponents' middle name is Gingrich."

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Herald Tribune

THE SWISS DIFFERENCE

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

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Repression in China

China seems to think it can justify the detention of Wei Jingsheng, the country's most prominent dissident, by formally charging him with sedition instead of simply holding him in secret without accusation of criminal conduct. It is a pathetic and transparent effort to create the illusion that China is a nation governed by the rule of law.

With the Chinese leadership maneuvering for position in the power vacuum created by the long illness of Deng Xiaoping, the favored posture in Beijing these days is reaffirmation of dogma, from relations with Taiwan to the treatment of dissent. Recent meetings between President Jiang Zemin of China and President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore may have eased the tensions that developed in relations earlier this year, but it is now clear that the White House's muted concern about Chinese human rights abuses has only encouraged Beijing to pursue a Stalinist policy of repression.

Mr. Wei's crime, under the twisted logic of Chinese law, is that he criticized the government for failing to adopt democratic political reforms once promised by Mr. Deng. In democratic countries that is called free expression. In China it is considered an effort to overthrow the government.

Mr. Wei gave up his work as an electrician and became a political essayist in the late 1970s. He was first arrested then and jailed for nearly 15 years because of

his political activity. He was released in 1993 when Washington made an issue of his captivity, much of which was in solitary confinement.

In April 1994, after Mr. Wei resumed his campaign for democracy and Washington dropped the link between China's human rights record and its trade privileges with the United States, he was seized again. Until Tuesday he was held without charge in an undisclosed spot.

Chinese leaders like to lecture foreigners about China's constitution and the rule of law in China, contending that freedom of speech, publication and assembly are protected and that only criminal conduct is prosecuted. The point where speech becomes sedition, of course, is defined by the government, which makes precious little distinction between the two. Like the Soviet masters of illusion, Chinese leaders call tyranny democracy and intimidation freedom.

President Clinton and his administration must speak out clearly and forcefully against the prosecution of Mr. Wei, who seems headed for an inevitable conviction and another long prison sentence. Beijing is betting that American eagerness for a profitable trade relationship will wear down American concern for human rights. But buying good relations with China at the expense of Mr. Wei and the many other Chinese citizens who seek greater democracy is a deal Washington must decline.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tax Cuts for the Rich

The chairman of the House's tax-writing committee, Bill Archer, has defended the fairness of the budget bill Congress passed this week by pointing to his staff's estimates that only about 9 percent of the Republicans' tax cuts would go to families earning over \$200,000, the richest 1 percent.

The Democrats did not believe the figures, and on Wednesday the Treasury showed why. It estimated that the richest 1 percent would take in almost twice as much, or 17 percent, of the tax cut. Indeed, under the Republican bill the poorest 20 percent of families, taken as a group, would pay higher taxes as a percentage of their income. The bill would reduce taxes by steadily increasing amounts as family incomes rose. The biggest tax cut would go to the richest families.

Confused? So was Congress when it voted. It relied on misleading estimates by its tax analysts. The Treasury analysts can be challenged, but in the main it followed guidelines that independent economists would agree with. The Treasury figures are solid evidence that the Republican tax cut is heavily weighted toward the rich.

The Republican distribution tables are distorted in at least four ways. First, they underestimate the benefit to wealthy investors of the cut in the tax on capital gains. The Republicans and the Treasury start off by calculating how much less tax investors would pay under the new, lower rates on the amount of sales they would normally undertake. But the Republican analysis reduces this estimate by the amount of extra taxes investors will voluntarily pay because they decide to sell off more stocks and bonds than usual.

This bizarre reduction makes the total tax savings to investors look small because it treats voluntary tax payments, triggered by a gift from Congress, as a burden.

Second, the estimates ignore the distribution of corporate tax cuts, which help the wealthy more than the poor. Third, Mr. Archer's numbers look only at the first five years of the tax cut. Treasury's es-

timates calculate the benefit when the taxes are fully phased in. For example, the tax bill gives high-income families the option of depositing money into a new type of tax-advantaged retirement account. Over the next few years, wealthy families might pay more because of this change. But several years later, they would reap big savings. The Treasury captures these benefits; the Republicans ignore them.

Fourth, Mr. Archer's figures fail to consider the fact that many low-income families would lose rebates they now receive under the earned-income tax credit — a subsidy for low-wage workers. Indeed, according to the Treasury's estimates, almost 3 million low-income families would pay higher taxes under the Republican plan even after taking account of the \$500 child credit and a higher standard deduction.

The Treasury figures can also be challenged. They, like Mr. Archer, ignore cuts in estate taxes, the benefit of which would go primarily to wealthy families. Impartial analysts can differ whether the Treasury apportioned corporate tax cuts correctly. But overall, the Treasury methodology is much less partisan — and similar to what congressional staffs used to provide.

Besides taxes, the Republican budget bill also tilts spending cuts against the poor. Federal spending under current laws would total in the year 2002 about \$2.2 trillion, of which about \$333 billion, or 15 percent, would go to the needy — mostly for food stamps, welfare, Medicaid and tax credits for low-paid workers. The Republican budget in 2002 would cut these need-based programs by a whopping 24 percent.

Congress and voters will engage for at least the next several weeks in an intense debate about the merits and demerits of the Republican budget. Before people make up their minds, they need to know unvarnished facts. The Treasury may not have provided the last word, but its word is truer than Mr. Archer's.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Insecurity's Price

Call it scaling back, downsizing or re-engineering: chalk it up to buyouts, mergers, corporate consolidation or high-tech automation. Whatever the reasons, thousands of American workers who once believed they had secure positions and steady incomes are being forced to leave their jobs in mid-career. The short-term stalemate between the president and Republicans cost plenty in federal employee morale and public confidence. But the human costs of work force changes in the private sector are producing jobs that exceed anything seen in government, at least thus far.

Job security, if not a thing of the past, is rapidly disappearing from the scene. No sector of the U.S. economy is immune. In efficiency's name, job cutting is occurring on the nation's campuses as well as in its corporations, in public schools and public utilities. For young Americans entering the work force, the lack of certainty may not be as much of a problem as it is for middle-age employees. For the latter, switching careers can be and often is a personal and professional crisis.

Technology is making it possible to replace often well-paid workers — men and women who are too young to retire but less mobile and adept at job finding — with lower-paid part-time or temporary employees, or with machines.

Layoffs on the scale Americans are witnessing today have other consequences. Talent isn't the only thing that leaves. There is also a loss of something else that once meant a great deal in the work force — employee loyalty. And with that, a price is paid in productivity.

None of this is to say that companies should not cut unnecessary costs — they are obligated to do so. Neither should efficiencies be ignored. Companies do that at their peril.

But the loss of jobs that were once thought to be permanent by people with deep roots in their community is more than a reflection of a rapidly changing economy. It is producing serious stresses in the society that business and public policymakers cannot look past. Insecurity has a price, too.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Give Clinton the Power He Needs to Enforce Pact

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — For years, those of us who believed the world had an obligation to stop Serbian aggression in Bosnia favored "lift and strike": First, lift the UN arms embargo that blocked the Bosnians from matching the far superior Serbian firepower; then, strike hard from the air to stop the aggressors while a balance of power was being achieved.

The idea was to get ineffective UN troops out and make possible a peace between military equals. This road was not taken.

Instead, after the hand-wringing by President Bill Clinton and America's NATO partners led to intolerable bloodletting, the decision was taken to "strike and pacify." Airpower was at last used to scare the Serbs to the peace table, and the promise of NATO troops, including 20,000 Americans, was made to persuade the Muslims to give up half their country and accept on-site protection.

So here we are. The Clinton administration, according to its allies' nailing demand for American leadership in Europe, has brokered a peace requiring another American expeditionary force.

By so doing, President Clinton has point-

ed all of us, hawks and doves, into a corner. He made an ill-considered promise in May 1993 — with no public debate or thorough internal review or consultation with Congress — to send U.S. ground troops to carry out what was called the Vance-Owen plan, concocted in a previous era.

Now he tells Americans that unless his "commitment" of troops is honored and supported at home, the Balkan carnage will begin again. NATO will become a dead letter and the word of the American president will be revealed as worthless.

Unfortunately, that's true. Like it or not, Americans' choice is to go along with him or repudiate and humiliate him. That's Hobson's choice, which is no choice at all.

We'll go along. Why? Because he may be mistaken in his method, but his belated Bosnia activism is not foolishly, UN-subordinated, mean-spirited or immoral. With luck, it could even work.

Rather than grump about the rejection of "lift and strike," airpower interventionists should recognize that Mr. Clin-

ton's policy is better than another year of his demeaning vacillation. Rather than sit back and say to the president, "Convince us," Congress and the public should help him refine and define his new policy.

In his Monday night speech, he should declare that if any side hits U.S. peace-enforcers, Americans will not cut and run, as in Lebanon and Somalia. The full division of Americans based in Tuzla will respond with ferocity, even as allies plead for "proportion."

The agreement negotiated in Dayton, Ohio, suggests that the administration at last understands the need to create a balance of power. Mr. Clinton must make clear to Congress that the half of Bosnia that is Muslim-Croatian will have more tanks and artillery and electronics than the part that is Serbian, because the Bosnian Serbs have backup forces in Serbia.

Does that mean we Americans are making peace by building up one side? Yes; we are obligated to build the defenses of the weak, who did not start the war. If, as Defense Secretary William Perry keeps hoping, the aggressors achieve balance by a "build-down," fine; but let's not count on it. Forget evenhandedness; remember

who the victims were and which entity remains most threatened.

At the same time, the president should make clear to Muslims and Croats that further reliance on Iran is unacceptable. With the embargo lifted, Pakistan and Poland can work out the transfer of former Soviet arms.

Mr. Clinton should emphasize that we expect more war-crimes indictments and will put economic beat on the parties to give up those indicted for trial at The Hague. That goes for one mad psychiatrist and the butcher of Srebrenica as well as individual murderers and rapists.

Should the president ask Congress to authorize this use of troops? That was decided long ago. In a 1993 letter to the Senate majority leader, George Mitchell, Mr. Clinton brought up the possibility of sending an unspecified number of troops to "implement" a peace agreement and to "implement" a peace agreement and to "implement" a peace agreement.

Congress should in Bosnia, probe, debate, caution — and then, on Bob Dole's motion, give him the authorization he needs.

The New York Times

For a Lasting Peace, Bitter Bosnians Must See Justice Done

By David Rieff

NEW YORK — The Bosnian peace agreement is rightly being hailed as a triumph for American diplomacy and, with luck, as the beginning of the end of the conflict.

Unfortunately, the second proposition does not follow from the first.

The Croats and President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia are delighted.

But for those who fought and endured terrible hardships to keep the dream of a unitary Bosnian state alive, the accord is little more than the ratification of Bosnia's defeat.

In Sarajevo and across free Bosnia, there is as much bitterness as relief. Many in the army believed the end of the war was shifting in their favor. This state of mind is an agent of post-war instability.

Among ordinary people, for all the relief at the prospect of peace, there is an overpowering sense of having suffered four years for nothing. Few are likely to celebrate an agreement that effectively ratifies the disappearance of Bosnia as it existed before 1992.

It was in defense of the ideal of a multinational, multiethnic Bosnia that its mainly Muslim people have shed their blood and endured privations.

For all the talk of Islamic fundamentalism, most Bosnians did not fight so their country could turn into a monoethnic state like Serbia or Croatia but for it to survive as something different and better — like the European norm.

After both the army's failure

to lift the siege of Sarajevo in May and the slaughter in Srebrenica, the Bosnians knew their only alternative was to give in. America wanted peace and was backing away from its commitment to a unitary Bosnian state.

The prospect of being caught between the Serbs and an unreliable Croatian ally while facing a Europe that was largely hostile to them and an indifferent United Nations was terrifying.

Before the Bosnians arrived in Dayton, they knew there was no real alternative to the humane version of ethnic partition cobbled together by Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke. President Alija Izetbegovic was right to sign.

The question is whether, even if NATO troops are sent to

Bosnia, the Bosnians will accept their defeat or see enough tangible benefits in the peace to allow them to see the wisdom of President Izetbegovic's insistence that "this may not be a just peace, but it is more just than a continuation of war."

Peace and the prospective deployment of American troops are the only tangible benefits the Bosnians have received. It is not clear that American guarantees to arm and train the Bosnian forces are hard and fast.

Not is it clear whether the reconstruction help that Bosnia needs if peace is ever truly to come will really be forthcoming.

Most important, it is not clear how committed the world is to bringing those who committed mass murder at Srebrenica and countless other towns to account. Without the catharsis of

Nuremberg, Germany's return to the civilized world would have been far more difficult. Without a similar process in Bosnia, it is unlikely the peace deal initiated in Ohio will endure.

For lasting peace, the Bosnians must be reconciled to what befell them while the world watched. Given the bitterness in Bosnia, there must be justice. Without it, there will be no lasting peace, only a lull in the hostilities that will last just as long as America keeps troops in Bosnia.

There are too many Bosnians who, armed and unreconciled, will wait for the moment to take matters into their own hands.

The writer, an author and journalist who frequently writes about Bosnia and Cuba, contributed this column to The New York Times.

Budget Showdown Pointed Up the President's Lack of Principle

By Charles Krauthammer

WASHINGTON — The much heralded, much hyped federal government shutdown came to an end on Nov. 19. On Nov. 17, President Bill Clinton's approval rating, which had been doing well during the whole misadventure, began to slip, dropping 4 to 6 percentage points overnight. Within 48 hours, the president had seen his way to a deal. The two events are not unrelated.

"The larger geopolitical [sic] point here is that we came out of this week fine," a senior White House official told The Washington Post shortly before President Clinton made his deal with the Republicans. "We protected Medicare. We stood for our principles. But no one was sure we would come out of another week as well." It was time, therefore, to call things off.

Here is the Clinton presidency in one paragraph, a presidency that suffers not just from a lack of principles but from a lack of un-

derstanding of what principles are. Here, after all, is a senior aide crowing about having "stood for principles" so long as the polls were up, and ready to quit as soon as the polls turned problematic.

He seems to think principle is something you've stood up for for six days. And on the seventh, when the polls turn south, you rest.

Senator Everett Dirksen once said, "I live by my principles and one of my principles is flexibility." We can accept that in a politician. Flexibility is the mark of a sophisticated politician, for whom cunning and maneuver are part of the job. The difference with Bill Clinton, however, is that cunning and maneuver are the whole job.

Nonetheless, it is wrong to say, as many do, that the president believes in nothing. Mr. Clinton has, it seems to me, a basic and quite genuine desire to do good in the world. This general, generic im-

pulse to improve has animated him throughout his political career and animates him today as president. He does want to bend government and use its power to do good.

Mr. Clinton's fundamental problem, however, is that this is the extent of his political philosophy: Beyond this inchoate idea of doing good there is just uncharted territory, with no road map.

That missing map is what ordinary people call principles. Most people generally want to do good, but they have, also, a subset of less mushy, more concrete beliefs: beliefs about what constitutes the good, what means are acceptable for achieving it and what moral duties one has to adhere to those means. These are the stuff of moral obligation, of principle.

For Mr. Clinton this territory is uninhabited. His wild swings from left to right, from New Democrat to old Democrat, from Medicare

cut to Medicare saver, from tax cut advocate to tax cut opponent and back to tax cut advocate — all these are entirely natural to him. And not just because he is so glib and smooth and articulate and confident. But because fundamentally he does not see these contradictions as betraying anything.

When former Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin of Britain said, "I would rather be an opportunist and float than go to the bottom with my principles around my neck," he was being cynical. But by the very declaration of his need to violate principles, he was acknowledging their claim and validity.

Mr. Clinton, on the other hand, is incapable of cynicism because he has no principles to violate. In picking advisers, he can move from Carville to Gergen to Stephanopoulos to Morris serenely and without disorientation because he has no map. For Mr. Clinton, there is only one thing that connects impulse and action: ambi-

tion. Between the impulse to do good and the political action he takes in its name (say, on welfare and Medicare), the only mediating principle is to do what benefits Bill. Whatever advances Mr. Clinton's career (today: whatever ensures his re-election) must necessarily be the right thing to do — because he, by self-definition, is someone who seeks to do good.

The result is a perfect conflation of self-interest and principle, to the point where Mr. Clinton is genuinely — not cynically — unable to tell them apart. It is no surprise, then, that Mr. Clinton's aides should see no difference between polls and principle — indeed, that they should define principle as whatever the polls yield. The rest of us would cringe at such an equation. The Clintonites don't. They pull it off with aplomb and, yes, sincerity because they really believe it. They are, quite literally, beyond cynicism.

Washington Post Writers Group

Russia's Future Could Well Be Found in Its Far-Flung Provinces

By Ethan B. Kapstein

PARIS — Boris Yeltsin has faced many tests during his presidency, but the greatest is still upon him. The division of political power in Russia between Moscow and the regions remains unsettled and the Kremlin has failed to devise an acceptable solution. Across the country, regional governors are asserting their autonomy. Can Moscow hold onto its so-called federation?

The answer to these questions is important not just for Russia but for the West as well. Focused on Moscow, Western leaders have little knowledge of the dynamics of local politics in the immense country, with its 89 regions. But this is where Russia's future is being decided.

The devolution of Russian authority is apparent in both the country's economics and politics. One good measure of the power of a central government is its ability to collect taxes. During the Soviet era, 80 percent of all taxes collected went to Moscow, while 20 percent remained in the regions. Today, the reverse is true.

There are also sharp differences in regional attitudes toward — and acceptance of — Moscow's economic reform policies. Some areas, like Moscow itself, have benefited tremendously from the transition process. But the capital is hardly representative of Russia. Further, the great income gaps being created across Russia are hardly conducive to nation-building.

On the political level, regional governors — who in some of the ethnic republics call themselves "president" — are claiming increasing autonomy over local affairs. This is so especially in the delivery of social services. Previously, many social services, such as housing, kindergartens and medical facilities, were pro-

vided by local, state-owned enterprises that reported to and were financed by their ministries in Moscow. As privatization proceeds, these enterprises are seeking to transfer their social services to the governments where they are located. While this transfer implies a new financial burden for regional authorities, it is also a source of political power.

Faced with the reality on the ground, President Yeltsin has now accepted the necessity of holding regional elections across the country, whereas in the past he appointed all governors directly.

Russia calls itself a federation, but that does not make it one, and the economic and political facts suggest a different reality. Rather than evolving toward an American-style federal structure, Russia could become a loose "confederation" of regions.

In a confederation, the constituent states themselves are sovereign. These states may then voluntarily establish a central authority with responsibility in such areas as trade, monetary and defense policy. The exemplar of a successful confederation is Switzerland, and the European Union could be described as evolving in this direction. The point is that a confederal structure is not necessarily a bad one. But there are at least two reasons why Russia may not follow this path.

First, the Russian state has been authoritarian for most of its history. Unlike the Americans, who had to build a strong central government from the ground up, the Russians have suffered through czarist and Communist regimes in which almost all decisions over daily life were made in Moscow. Today, many Russians want a more limited form of government.

Second, with the end of the Cold War, Moscow cannot justify the maintenance of a "national security state." The Chechnya war shows just how incompetent the military has become.

What are the implications of this struggle between Moscow and its regions for Russia and the West?

First, it is clear that President Yeltsin's effort to establish a strong "presidential" form of government has failed, as an increasing number of decisions are being made outside of Moscow. To date, Mr. Yeltsin's political strategy has been an ad hoc one of playing regions off one another, with the hope of making Moscow the ultimate victor. It hasn't worked, and the president has begun seeking a new bargain with the regions. That bargaining process should be made transparent, and the Russian Parliament must play an active role. The costs and benefits of alternative political structures need to be debated.

Second, this struggle suggests that Russia will remain a patchwork quilt of a country in terms of economic and political reform. Some regions will seize every opportunity to liberalize and develop local market economies, while others will remain stuck in the Soviet mud. These regional disparities will themselves, of course, make the task of creating a durable federation all the more difficult. If not impossible, as each governor seeks to carve out exceptions — for better or for worse — to existing national policies. In this respect, the evolving role of regional Parliaments is also an important development to follow. Some have passed or are debating local economic legislation that goes far beyond anything yet adopted in Moscow.

Third, this struggle means that

Russia will not pose a major military threat to Europe, casting doubts on the need for NATO expansion. Moscow has neither the internal authority nor the appeal to an external threat to marshal a major offensive force.

Fourth, it points up the need for more foreign assistance to be sent directly to the regions. To date, Moscow has reaped windfall profits from foreign aid, and few of the incoming funds are spent outside the "rig road" that defines the city limits. Indeed, millions have probably gone directly to Swiss bank accounts. If foreign donors wish to make a significant impact on the reform process, they will have to concentrate their

efforts on those distant regions where Russia's economic future still hangs in the balance.

Finally, and perhaps most important, it means that Western policymakers should get to know their "counterparts" in regional and local governments across the country. One day, these officials may be the leaders of a whole new series of states, established following the breakup of a transitional political entity that was, called the Russian Federation.

The writer has recently been appointed director of studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. He contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: Far East's 'Key'

PARIS — Who will get Korea? This is a question that is again brought forward by the Herald's Special Despatch from St. Petersburg. The telegram says that Japan has acknowledged the unconditional right of Russia to hold Korea and Manchuria. That Russia has looked with longing eyes on the "Key of the Far East" is ignored by none who have followed the events in that region. Korea is in truth worth possessing. Its mineral resources are as great as its strategic position is important. Russia has done everything possible to keep the valuable "Hermit Kingdom" free to fall into her hands in the fullness of time. Has that time now arrived?

1920: A Mechanic's Will

BOSTON — Mr. Charles Garland, second son of the late James A. Garland, a financier of this city, has refused to accept the bequest

of one million dollars left him under his father's will. He prefers to make his own living as an automobile mechanic rather than accept what he has not earned. He declares that money brings only unhappiness and unrest.

1945: Korea Partitioned

PARIS — [The Herald says in an editorial:] Although months have passed since the end of the war in Asia, there is still no sign that a lasting peace has been made toward solution of the problems of Korea. The country still is split into two parts, with Russian armies in control of the industrial north and American troops in the agricultural south. There has never been a reasonable excuse for this arrangement, which divides a homogeneous people. It is creating new political problems. The Koreans are being indoctrinated with Communistic ideas in the north and with theories of the Western democracies in the south.

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OPINION/LETTERS

When History No Longer Tells a Story, Students Close the Book

By Edwin M. Yoder Jr.

WASHINGTON — American historylessness makes headlines only when hapless schoolchildren perform badly on an achievement or assessment test, as they did on tests recently sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. But it is an adult problem too.

Why do Americans tend, with notable exceptions, to be poor students of history? Some years ago I ventured a not very original theory: "The United States, in certain striking ways, has been exempt from the harsh penalties of history, which Gibbon called 'a register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind.' Most civilizations learn in a hard school to view present events as portending calamity; accordingly they scan the past for precedents and keys to understanding and avoidance. But calamity has not been the common American experience. Plagues, bombing, famine, mass displacement of populations, holocaust: these tragic instructors of mankind, even in our century, are happily lacking."

In the 20 years since I wrote that, not much has changed. There are splendid American historians, professionals like David H. Donald, Arthur S. Link and C. Vann Woodward, and gifted amateurs like David McCullough. But many historians now pursue academic fads: "sociological history," psychohistory, Cliometrics, all of them in some ways devices for evading the primary historical function of creating a "master nar-

ative," a story line that makes an intelligible tale of the past.

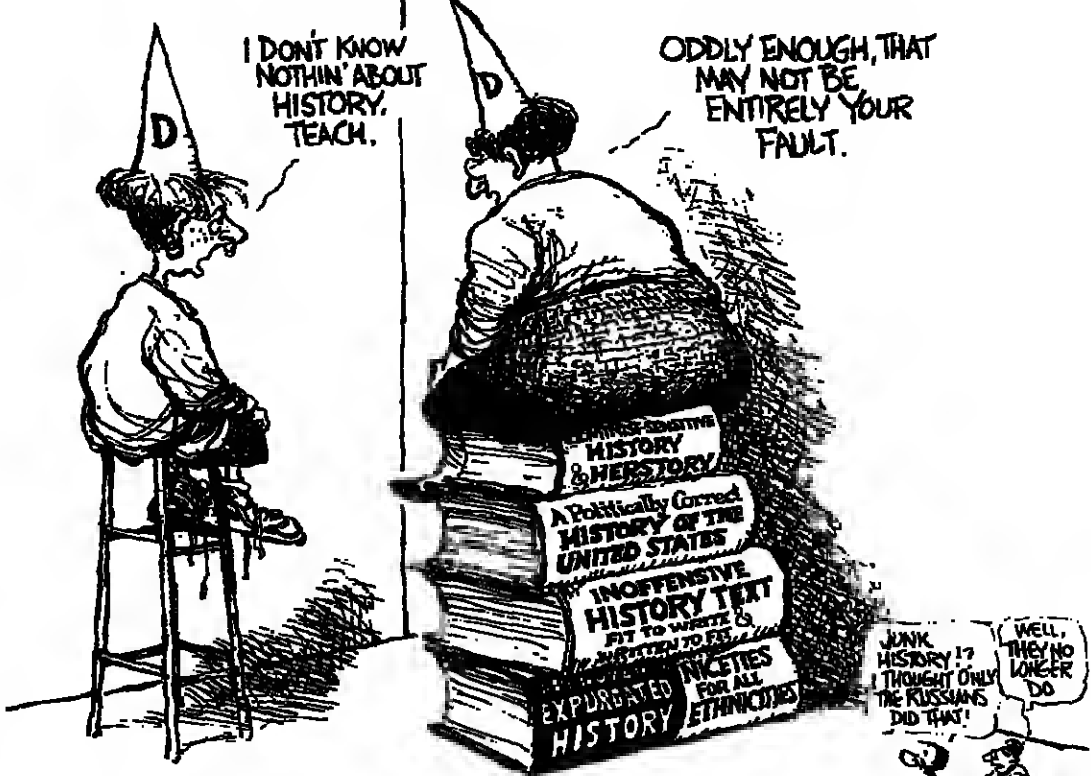
Indeed, no one seems confident any longer of which cultural landmarks and achievements are worthy of study. The 1992 Columbus quinqucentenary, for instance, became a bizarre self-parody of academic faddishness, an orgy of assault upon the European age of discovery. It was generally dismissed as an episode in the exploitation of the noble savage.

When they are not patronizing the past, professional historians pursue microscopic social trivia. A conviction has emerged that the truths of historical experience are more readily to be captured from the study of "ordinary" lives — how people cooked and seasoned their food, or dressed, or buried their dead — than from the study of heroic or creative endeavor. The individualism that once formed the staple of historical narrative has gone.

History today is egalitarian social history when it is history at all. But there is no evidence that this trend engages the imagination of the young.

For all these and other reasons, history, when taught at all, tends to be poorly taught. It is the exceptional history teacher who communicates its intrinsic drama or the point that while facts are vital, history is not the amassing of facts, but an inquiry into the transformations by which one age gives way to another.

It is useful to know who Gutenberg was and when he lived; but



history begins when you ask what his invention of moveable type had to do with the Reformation. It is useful to know the chemistry of gunpowder; but history begins when you ask what this medieval

Chinese import had to do with the collapse of feudal society. It helps to know how a steam engine works; but history begins when you ask what it contributed to commerce and mass literacy.

These and thousands of other such questions are the real stuff of history. How anyone can find them less than fascinating I can't imagine. Can you?

Washington Post Writers Group.

Gifts for That Fetishist On Your Holiday List

By Maureen Dowd

WASHINGTON — My friend mistakenly got a catalogue in the mail the other day that was meant for the guy who lives down the hall.

Now she's too scared to return it. The Christmas catalogue from the Edge Co. is not your usual offering of cherub candlesticks and cat tapestry tote bags. It features leg irons, viper rifle crossbows, me-

munchkin Christmas ornaments, the Southwest Indian Foundation asks customers to buy a food basket for 6-year-old Emily Manygoats.

Catalogues are not only philosophy. They are also anthropology. This will be remembered as the era of gargoyles, fish-shaped objects and T-shirts with stupid sayings, often about fish. ("Kiss my bass.") No one reads books anymore, but literature is hot decor. There are fake libraries everywhere, hiding TV remote controls, compact disks, tissue boxes and decanters. A ubiquitous literary item is also a ubiquitous staple of Newt Gingrich's wardrobe — a silk tie of stacked books.

Catalogues can be escapist entertainment, the "Purple Rose of Cairo" trick of experiencing a more glamorous life while sitting still.

You can join Cher in her "Santuary" catalogue, featuring interior design for the luxurious dungeon.

MEANWHILE

dieval axes, Iroquois tomahawks, kung fu throwing knives, South African commando bayonets, Hitler Youth daggers, a book on the "Secrets of Lock Picking," and a "Screaming Hot Venom" pepper gas guaranteed to drive off grizzly bears, drunks, dope-heads and psychotics.

The last page offers videos on "How to Meet Women Easily" and "What Women Really Want."

"She's out there waiting for you," the catalogue promises consumers of lock-picking devices and leg irons.

Catalogues, some stranger than others, are coming like Hitchcock's birds, one or two at first, then a steady trickle. Finally an inescapable, menacing torrent.

They are full of shiny junk. Or, if you believe Ralph Lauren, they are full of personal statements about our dreams. Or, if you believe Cher, they are full of "wondrous things that defy the mysteries of the ages." Or, if you believe J. Peterman, they are full of things that have a "factual romance" about them.

I like catalogues. They're like

safe sex for shopping. You look through and see something you want and turn down the page, and then you never get around to sending for it. Some stuff you just have to have, though, like the Limited Edition ties based on Frank Sinatra paintings in the Donna Michaels catalogue. (It's only a matter of time before LeRoy Neiman makes records.)

Some catalogues are sternly ecological. Patagonia's copy might have been written by Al Gore. It instructs customers to buy fewer clothes and to give old clothes to charity. "Our shredded, unguaranteed clothes can live on as rags," it says.

Some are spiritually materialistic. "Collections of the Vatican Museums" sells stained glass decanters and a money clip with a picture of St. Peter's Square.

Some are altruistic. Besides selling turquoise jewelry and "Indian

I like catalogues. They're like safe sex for shopping.

You can go to Neiman Marcusland and pretend you're sporting an \$11,000 cat-and-teddy-bear charm bracelet, a \$3,995 lynx jacket and a \$65,000 antique tiara with 687 diamonds weighing 40 carats, and belting double old-fashioned in Baccarat crystal, carrying a Judith Leiber minaudière in the shape of a jeweled serpent and sashaying in a white marabou bolero.

You can go "shopping après-ski" in Vail, skimming through the Golden Bear catalogue, fantasizing about what it would be like to lounge around the lodge in a mink head-wrap and a recycled black rubber BMW backpack, while your beloved swigs Armagnac from a \$560 sterling silver flask.

Who are these people?

The downscale catalogues are the last refuge of surrealism. Who can resist reindeer antlers that fit on a cat's head, a hiker jacket for a dog, sunglasses with Elvis sideburns, a Santa cap with dreadlocks, and a golf beret "crafted from turf-like material to look and feel just like a putting green and featuring a miniature flag pole and plastic golf ball?"

I turn these pages and helplessly I reach for the phone. But I'm in luck. My credit card is denied.

The New York Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hong Kong's New Airport

A remark attributed to me in "Hong Kong's New Airport" (Oct. 30) may leave an unfortunate, unintended impression with readers.

During an interview, I commented on humankind's overall impact on the earth, based on my personal observations during 300 earth orbits as the first civil engineer to fly in space, on two U.S. space shuttle missions. In the article, this was interpreted as denigrating Hong Kong's environmental regulations. This is emphatically not the case.

As consultant project manager, I support the Hong Kong government's approach to the project, and believe that shifting air traffic from

congested Kai Tak to the new Chek Lap Kok site will provide a major environmental benefit for Hong Kong and the Pearl River area.

JAMES D. A. VAN HOUTEN,
Hong Kong.

The EU and Money

Regarding "A Europe Marching to Bonn's Tune on Currency" (Nov. 13):

The latest proposals regarding the European monetary union and a single currency, as put forward by German finance minister, Theo Waigel, are a blatantly undemocratic attempt to dictate to the other 14 member states what the political and economic landscape of Europe should

look like into the millennium.

To tighten the "convergence criteria" of the Maastricht Treaty by trying to impose economic conditions that at best only a quarter of the member states can aspire to fulfill, is to condemn the European Union to a two- or three-tier system that loses all its original meaning. Mr. Waigel's proposed "stability pact" would produce exactly the opposite effect.

KARL H. PAGAC,
Villeneuve-Loubet, France.

Regarding "Waigel Seeks Fines for Deficits" (Nov. 11):

Fining countries that have deficits exceeding the guidelines of the Maastricht treaty is not a good idea. It will only lead the leaders of those

countries to succumb to their knee-jerk reaction to deficits and pile on more taxes to pay for the deficit and the fine. The taxpayers and the economy will suffer doubly for the foibles of the leaders.

Why not take fiscal and monetary powers away from the politicians and put the country under a special committee of the EU or its central bank to reorganize the finances as we do now with companies that need to be reorganized? Too bad the treaty can't be renegotiated to limit the tax load.

STANLEY RODBELL,
St. Cannat, France.

Roy Denman ("Central and East European Candidates Will Have to

Do Better," *Opinion*, Nov. 1) writes that the East and Central European countries should be admitted to the EU only when "their economies are self-sustaining and competitive with the West."

He cautions against early membership because it would cost the EU too much. Yet this is true only if current EU structural policies are extended to the applicant countries without being changed to accommodate a larger and more diverse Union.

If Western Europe has an interest in EU enlargement, it is wholly unreasonable to shift the burden of adjustment entirely onto Central and Eastern Europe.

JOCHEN LORENTZEN,
Siena, Italy.

BOOKS

TREE OF HEAVEN

By R.C. Binstock. 212 pages. \$22. Soho.

THE TENT OF ORANGE MIST

By Paul West. 263 pages. \$22. Scribner.

Reviewed by Wendy Law-Yone

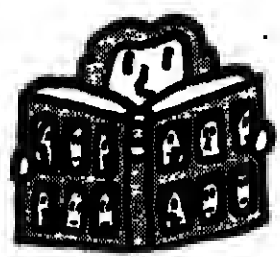
THESE two novels have more than history as a common backdrop. Both take place in the shadow of the 1937 Japanese invasion of Nanking; both have at their center the relationship between a Japanese officer and a captive Chinese woman; both examine the violation of women by conquering armies. Yet the two books are so different in style, voice, sensibility and approach that one could just as well be reading about two historically and psychologically unrelated events.

R.C. Binstock's "Tree of Heaven" is a sensitive, subdued, expertly crafted first novel about a Japanese officer left in charge of a provincial garrison town and a local woman he rescues, then continues to

• Margo Power, editor and publisher of *Murderous Intent* mystery magazine, is reading "Until the End of Time" by Polly Whitney.

"This is Whitney's second mystery with her Ike and Abby series characters. Their witty byplay often makes me laugh while the stark reality of New York City's homeless tugs at my heartstrings."

(Brad Spurgeon, JHT)



protect, from the savagery of his fellow soldiers.

A decent family man, a botanist by profession, the officer, having participated in the horror of the Nanking invasion, is "saturated with disgust" despite his contempt for the Chinese enemy. The woman he takes in is a wary survivor, expecting the worst after all she has seen, but determined to live by deadening herself to fear and pain.

In the abandoned schoolhouse that serves as the officer's quarters, the doomed pair slowly get to know each other — first as servant and master,

then as lovers — while living in a state of siege.

Trapped in hostile territory, the officer must defend not only the camp from guerrilla attacks but also his lover from her own people in the village, and himself and her from his bored, frustrated, sullen men. The woman knows that her safety is tenuous and her future bleak. Yet in the face of (or perhaps because of) such hopelessness, the two find refuge in love, discovering and healing each other through its transforming passion and compassion.

In its refined language, its focus on interior rather than exterior detail, its quality of fable, "Tree of Heaven" recalls J.M. Coetzee's "Waiting for the Barbarians" and David Malouf's "An Imaginary Life."

Although in this case a real and horrific event frames the central love story, although time and place are exactly identified, although the stamp of historical accuracy is on every second page, the novel has the same timeless, parabolic feel.

Paul West's "The Tent of Orange Mist" takes place in Nanking itself, in the thick of the bloody invasion. The Japanese officer in this case has little to recommend him. A depraved brute, he turns the villa of the heroine, an aristocratic

girl he has violated and corrupted, into a luxury bordello (the Tent of Orange Mist).

As the unfortunate girl (with the equally unfortunate name of Scald Ibis) sinks to ever-lower depths of degradation, her disappeared father, an eminent scholar, returns to their house in secret. (He, no less surprisingly, is called Ho.) This haughty mandarin takes up residence in the chimney, where he kills time by playing with an old piece of bubble gum and whispering to his daughter through a crack in the screen. Eventually he crawls out of hiding to work for the resident Japanese officers by posing as a houseboy, while his daughter cheerfully goes about her business as a madam. As if this were not preposterous enough, Scald Ibis entertains her fellow "comfort women" during their free time with wickedly dull accounts of an obscure Jesuit missionary's career in the Far East. A more bizarre way of boosting employee morale would be hard to imagine.

The characters seem befuddled by the nonsense imposed on them. An officer rapes young women with bottles, then sets their pubic hair on fire, but "why he did it he could not have said." He also enjoys sticking postage stamps on a girl's oiled body. But "why [he] oiled it would be hard to say." Nobody seems to be sure what exactly is going on — or to really care — and the reader is basically told to shut up and eat his spinach with statements like: "How much of this Scald Ibis knew... will never be known." Not to the reader, and not to the writer, I suspect.

Wendy Law-Yone, the author of the novels "Irrawaddy Tango" and "The Coffin Tree," wrote this for *The Washington Post*.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

WRITTEN by a top-ranked player, "Points, Schmoits! Marty Bergen's Winning Bridge Secrets," consists mostly of pithy advice to improve the reader's game, but the author occasionally strays into sheer entertainment, as on the diagrammed deal. It occurred in the 1983 Spingold Knockout Team Championship, and he held the East cards. His team was trailing, and he was in the mood for desperate measures.

Instead of a totally normal pass, he made the weird opening of two diamonds. In his methods this purported to show a weak two-bid in spade, and his suit as far short of the normal requirements in length and strength even at favorable vulnerability — and this was unfavorable.

Such wild experiments usually end in disaster, but this one resulted in a triumph. South was in some difficulty and tried two no-trump, rather than three clubs.

North naturally raised to three no-trump, having no fear whatever of a spade lead. West, says Bergen, "cleverly avoided a spade lead" and tried the di-

amond jack with a happy outcome: the defense took the first six tricks.

North-South were horrified to find that they had good play for a slam in a black suit. But in the replay Bergen's teammate picked the wrong slam. Six spades would have been unbeatable, in spite of the trump split, and the actual slam in six clubs was defeated by a diamond lead and a spade ruff. It is curious that the 5-0 spade division is no problem to the declarer in spades, but is fatal if South played in clubs and finds a normal trump split.

East and West were vulnerable. The bidding:

East 2♦ South 3NT West 3NT Pass

West led the diamond jack.

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Moonlight and Sake: 10 Ideas for Frugal Tokyo Sightseeing

By Christine Chapman

TOKYO—Once upon a time, when the dollar was golden and the yen inconsequential, travelers to Japan lived well, using their pocket calculator only when the zeroes ran on too long. Today the dollar is trying to maintain a value of 100 yen and the calculator is archaic. It is too simple to figure out what things are worth when 100 yen is \$1. But it's still possible to see the world's most expensive city without breaking the bank.

See Tokyo as touring Japanese do who hunt out the famous site, the beautiful temple, the nostalgia of old neighborhoods. Enjoy simple rites like flower-viewing without giving up sophisticated tastes like sake or the theater. Join the Japanese in savoring the rewards of frugality. Here are a few, all under \$10.

Start first in Asakusa at Sensoji Temple with the Japanese. When they tour the capital, they head for the ancient temple, first completed in 645, then rebuilt in 1958, to say their prayers, buy a fortune, and waft smoke from the temple's censers to the weakest part of their body for a cure. Elderly women wave it to their hips, students to their head. Unless you buy a 100-yen white-paper fortune (usually good), written in Japanese, to hang from a rack in the temple, or a 500-yen package of rice crackers, the sightseeing is free and the atmosphere lively. The temple compound is close to Asakusa Station on the Ginza subway line.

To return to the center of Tokyo, take a 45-minute cruise along the Sumida River. About a 5-minute walk from Sensoji is the River Commuter station where a 560-yen ticket carries passengers along the river, the city's main thoroughfare when Tokyo was still Edo (1603-1868). The poignancy evoked by the writer Kafu Nagai's stories

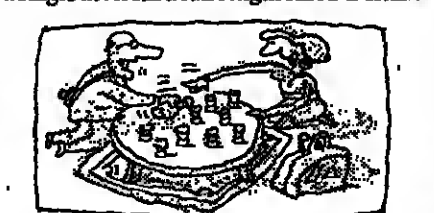
about the prewar Sumida and its villages is no longer apparent in the high-rises that line the banks. They tower above the handful of tiled-roof wooden houses that remain. The pleasure of the trip is seeing the life on the water and passing under the 11 bridges that span it, each architecturally different. Azuma, the oldest and most famous, is 300 years old, rebuilt of course; the Kachidoki was modeled after a split bridge spanning the Chicago River. Hinode



Pier, near Hamamatsuchō station on the Japan Railways Yamanote line, is the end of the trip. There you can get a train back to a station near the Ginza.

To try Japan's national drink, the traditional rice wine sake, go to the Japan Sake Center at 5-9-1 Ginza Dori, or Avenue, near the Nissan showroom and across the street from Mitsukoshi department store. At the center young women serve five different types of sake for 500 yen. It is closed Thursdays and holidays. Hours 10:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. The subway stop is Ginza on the Hibiya or Ginza lines.

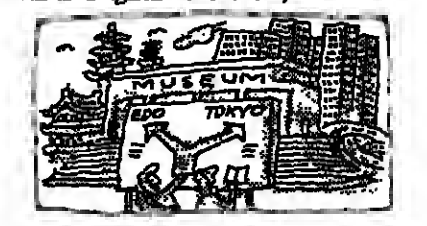
Continue up Ginza Dori a few blocks to the Kabuki-za, the glorious theater where a single act from a full-length Kabuki drama



costs from 600 to 900 yen, depending on the running time. In September one could choose a scene from a melodrama about 12th-century warrior clans, a love scene in which Prince Genji was caught between two paramours, a living one and a ghost, or all of "Scarface Yosaburo," about a gen-



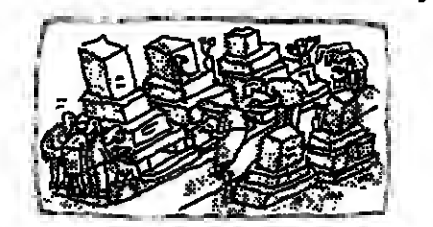
teel young man whose body is slashed up by a demon because he fell in love with a gangster's girlfriend. The costumes and stage techniques are justly famous, the pace is slow, but the extravagant emotions carry the day. Tickets are available at the box office each day immediately before the performance. The disadvantage of the cheap tickets is climbing up four flights of stairs to the balcony. The advantage is the best seat in the house for a panoramic view of the extensive stage. (Buying a ticket for the entire program, priced from 2,500 yen to 16,000 yen, enables renting earphones with an English translation.) Kabuki-za is



above the Higashi-Ginza subway station on the Hibiya line.

To put old Edo and modern Tokyo into historical perspective, a visit to the Edo-Tokyo Museum is a must. Built in a vast contemporary structure, the space, uncrowded and arranged chronologically, well serves an ambitious project: to preserve the city's 400-year-old history and to educate and entertain Japanese and foreigners. Original artifacts, old books and prints, scale-model reproductions of the early Ginza, an elaborate merchant establishment, the Rokumeikan pleasure palace, where upper-class Japanese learned to entertain foreign diplomats, educators and engineers from 1883-1889, are all fascinating. Most spectacular are the 55 large-scale replicas, including the Nihonbashi Bridge, a newspaper office, a split row

house, a Kabuki stage. Real objects from ordinary lives like the meager furnishings in the row house with its small shop out front suggest the poverty of an urban people. Reminders of the 1923 Great Kanto earthquake pale beside exhibits of the World War II destruction of the city. A video of the March 10, 1945, air raids with sound and commentary runs regularly and replicas of soldiers selling or shopping at Shinjuku Station's black market are light years away from the proud display of one of the first 14-inch television sets, an early



refrigerator, a rice cooker, the first Subaru. An afternoon or a day at the Edo-Tokyo Museum costs only 500 yen for adults, and nothing for those 65 or over. Take the Japan Railways Sōbu line to Ryōgoku station. The museum is behind the easily recognized, green-roofed Sumo stadium, Kokugikan.

For a glance at the real thing, an intact neighborhood that reflects the old shiromachi, the downtown, or what the writer Edward Seidenicker calls the Low City, go to Yanaka, the temple town of Tokyo. It survived the earthquake and 1945 well enough to give the visitor a sense of prewar living. Many old temples surround one of the city's largest cemeteries and so do narrow lanes, where the latticed facades of wooden houses are out of the past. Note the shops of craftsmen, makers of paper food baskets, pottery, ivory and steaming soba, buckwheat noodles. Take the Japan Rail



Yamanote line to Nippori and head up the slope to the cemetery on the left. Walk through the grounds observing the occasional pint-sized bottle of sake besides the



flowers, for thirsty spirits. In a few minutes the lane opens to an enclave of temples where the serenity is free. (A bowl of noodles may cost from 500 to 1,000 yen.)

Weekend flea markets are an entertaining source of souvenirs and affordable antiques. Treasures in a Sunday fair include piles of used silk kimonos and obi, the long, wide brocade sashes, odd pieces of porcelain and pottery, small furniture, Japanese dolls, records, pictures, and plates commemorating famous sumo wrestlers—or the marriage of Charles and Di. Try Togo Shrine, Nogi Shrine, or the steps of the Rei building in Roppongi. There are several others. For dates, times and directions check the free monthly Tour Companion newspaper or visit the Tourist Information Center on Hamamachi Dori, opposite the American Express Office.



The great outdoor sport in October and November is chrysanthemum-viewing. Forget the garden variety; the *kiku* is the imperial flower featured on the royal crest. Those on display are as tall as human beings. Bright and subtle colors and refined heights reveal a manicured artistry. For 300 yen the garden at Meiji Shrine, before the entrance to the sacred precinct, presents private viewing in a wooded, lakeside setting. Continue on to the famous Shinto

shrine that honors Emperor Meiji (1868-1912) of the 1868 Meiji Restoration that brought Japan out of feudalism and into the international arena. For both flowers and shrine get off at Harajuku station on the Japan Rail Yamanote line or at Meiji-Jingumae on the Chiyoda subway line. Follow signs to the garden and shrine. (The flowers can be seen earlier in the season, for free, at Asakusa's Sensoji Temple, mid-October to mid-November, and Hibiya Park in the center of Tokyo, near the Hibiya station on the Hibiya line, most of November.)

While in the royal mode, join the joggers or walkers along the outer moats that enclose the Imperial Palace grounds. Start at the Hibiya Moat, only two blocks from the Tourist Information Center and Hibiya station, and go east to the East Garden, no



entrance fee, or west along Uchibori Dori and the Sakurada Moat, which protects the actual palace. You won't see the royals out pruning the trees, but you may catch sight of their gardeners at the gatehouses.

Another pretty pleasure for frugal travelers is autumn moon-viewing or *tsukimi*. Sitting on the wide porch of a traditional house is preferred, but leaning out the hotel room window on a moonlit night is all right too. The custom was to catch the moon, or moonlight itself, in a cup of sake and go to bed happy.

A final thrill for tourists who can moon-view at home is suddenly to see the elusive Mount Fuji. Continue to glance south-southwest. Fuji is spectacular. In 1889 the British landscape painter Alfred East did not see it. He went home in a post, saying, "Japan without Fuji is like lacquer that lacks lac." Good Japanese lacquer is very pretty and not cheap. Fuji-San is magnificent and free.

Christine Chapman, who lived in Japan for many years, recently returned from three weeks in Tokyo, solvent.

THE MOVIE GUIDE

Get Shorty

Directed by Barry Sonnenfeld.

U.S.

If you'd like to know who Chili Palmer is, he has a fine answer. "I'm the one telling you how it is." That describes not only the no-balance hero of Elmore Leonard's "Get Shorty," played to suave perfection by John Travolta in Barry Sonnenfeld's bright new movie, but also Leonard himself. The author's sardonic voice has been lost in most films based on his fiction, but this one nicely captures that unruffled Leonard authority. And since "Get Shorty" is about Hollywood, it invites the sneaky self-mockery that gives this film its comic punch. Joining "Clueless" and "To Die For" as one more clever Hollywood satire with an

enlightened sense of fun, "Get Shorty" finds a terrific ensemble cast—including Gene Hackman, Rene Russo and Danny DeVito—in a typical Leonard success story. When opportunity knocks for any of the small-time operators he writes about, it tends to bring mind-boggling complications even to the simplest of illegal schemes. It's part of the joke here that Chili is a die-hard cineaste and loves reminiscing about smart, stylish tough-guy films he has enjoyed. "Get Shorty" belongs to that list.

(Janet Maslin, NYT)

Goldeneye

Directed by Martin Campbell.

U.S.

Men can no longer carry on as they used to. But no one seems

to have debriefed James Bond. In "Goldeneye," an entertaining collision of old values and new, the latest Bond (Pierce Brosnan) is still a dashing rascal in a tuxedo, defending queen and country from megalomaniacal psychotics, but never too busy for a little lady-killing. Oh, this movie pretends to tackle the politics. M, Bond's imperious boss at MI6, is now a woman (Judi Dench), who takes a withering view of Bond's sexual shenanigans. But she's seen as a humorless, crotchety bean-counter, rather than the new spirit of liberation. There's another politically correct moment when Miss Moneybags (an old character played by a new actress, Samantha Bond) playfully informs 007 that his flirtatious comments are grounds for sexual harassment.

"What's the penalty?" he asks. "You'll have to act on all your innuendos," she says. At the most basic, crowd-pleasing level, "Goldeneye" (Bood producer-for-life Albert Broccoli's 17th) does the trick. Naturally, the world's in big trouble again. Russian military renegades and a mysterious mastermind want to destroy the London financial market with

state-of-the-art electromagnetic satellite zappers. Bond needs to identify the saboteurs and, as usual, fight his way out of a plethora of tricky, breathtaking situations. In a scene that's likely to produce the loudest audience response, for instance, Bond chases the bad guys through downtown Moscow in a tank. New Bond man Brosnan can't be faulted for much. He's always been generically sexy, a sort of programmed cover boy. In this new venture, he's appropriately handsome and suave. He doesn't have a soul to speak of. But then again, not everyone can be Sean Connery. And given the inevitability of sequels and new blood, he's as dynamic a chiseled operative as anyone could hope for.

(Desson Howe, WP)

Three Days / Corridor

Directed by Sharranun Baras.

Lithuania.

These two almost speechless films, out of a country that barely produces movies, make an astonishing apparition: the young director who shot them in the wasteland of Kaliningrad and in the somber halls of a collective apartment house, is

talked about as a new Tarkovsky. Yet Sharranun Baras evokes a godless universe that looks like Broeghel's winter landscapes. He composes narrative as a mosaic blanketed across a post-Soviet disaster area—sunless and asphyxiating. Between "Three Days" (1991), shot in color, and "Corridor" (1994), in black and white, his vision has darkened. The camera rushes through ruins, distant sounds seep through bomb-scarred buildings, while outside, fires rage in the night, frozen rivers gleam. Lost young people run and halt, limp and lean on each other, prematurely aged. Then comes a moment when music breaks out: They dance, drink and spin with bacchanal abandon. Ghostly couples merge and dissolve, love is fugitive, for nothing can thrive on such impoverished soil, but at the end, a mysterious change has visited the scene. Katerina Golubeva is the intense focus of both films; she has a face that captures light and promises better things for this lighted world.

(Joan Dupont, IHT)



Clockwise from left: Russo, Travolta, Hackman and DeVito, the stars of "Get Shorty."

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This magnificent hotel is not to be missed by discriminating travellers: rooms are spacious and light-filled, decorated in a harmonious, classic style. Supreme comfort and tranquility.	In a quiet street, two steps away from the Champs Elysées, this charming freestone hotel welcomes you in a refined and friendly setting.	Behind the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysées, this welcoming hotel, situated in a quiet street, offers you a convivial and pleasant service in a modern surrounding.	Warm and modern, this extremely comfortable hotel spares no effort to make your stay a pleasant one: all is prepared for a faultless stay, tailored to your needs.
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Between the Arc de Triomphe and la Défense, this modern hotel with bright, tastefully designed rooms, offers everything for a comfortable, restful stay. Friendly, intimate atmosphere.	A small, quiet street, between the Champs-Elysées and the Porte Maillot, harbors this traditional hotel with large rooms and the charm of antique furniture.	Situated in the quiet Avenue Carnot, a continuation of the Arc de Triomphe, Rooms are spacious and comfortable, furnished tastefully and pleasantly.	A warm welcome in comfortable, modern and well cared for surrounding, in the shadow of the Arc de Triomphe. Quiet rooms, restful atmosphere and pleasant service.

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The Case for Sharing a Private Jet

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

FEW people would claim that riding their own business jet is the cheapest way to get around. And it may not sound like a very good investment to the stockholders at a time when you are slashing travel costs and laying off staff. But you may be able to justify the cost of a one-eighth or one-quarter share of a business jet through a novel time-sharing program called "fractional ownership."

Bargains abound, thanks to the recession, but it's unlikely that you'll find a suitable plane for less than \$1 million; you'll probably have to pay between \$2 million and \$4 million.

A Cessna Citation II, the entry level for a jet, costs from around \$1 million (used) to \$2.6 million new; a faster jet like a Lear 31A will cost up to \$3 million, and longer range jets like a Lear 60 or Falcon 2000, a Gulfstream or a Challenger will cost from \$10.5 to \$17 million and beyond.

Then you're faced with hiring your own crew and maintenance people, or paying a management company to operate your plane. So when the chairman wants it for the security analysts meeting, it is either out for charter or grounded for maintenance.

Chartering a Citation II from London to Strasbourg and back at \$1,500 an hour will cost around \$3,500; hardly a steal when you compare it with the round-trip business class fare of \$420. It only makes sense if you take half-a-dozen colleagues along.

But you would arrive faster than a scheduled flight and be back (if you must) in time for lunch. Take in Maastricht and Vienna on the way to Strasbourg and you can still return the same day. This may cost about \$6,000, but there is no other way you could do this. Similarly, a day-trip from Cannes to Hamburg and Zurich and back would cost 68,000 francs (about \$13,600) — 13,600 francs per head if there are five of you.

YOU'LL never justify the cost of a business jet by how much you save in airline tickets. It comes down to how much you value your time and the opportunity to take trips that you couldn't otherwise and to run on your own schedule — especially in forays into Russia, Africa or China. Plus the lack of stress, being able to work or relax, meet with associates in privacy, and the blessed freedom from the misery of megahubs. What price do you put on that? Whether to acquire a business jet often comes down to an act of faith — an entrepreneurial rather than a spreadsheet decision. A rule of thumb is that it is only worthwhile if you need it to fly more than 350 hours a year. But it is the intangible benefits that make the most tangible case.

Fractional ownership is a novel com-

promise. You buy, say, an eighth- or a quarter-share of a plane in which you have legal title and access to a certain number of hours a year. You pay a monthly management fee, which covers fixed costs — hangar space, insurance, maintenance, crew salaries — plus so much an hour for the actual time you are in the air. There is no charge for deadhead legs (positioning flights), which can double the cost of a charter. You are guaranteed availability of your plane, or a similar plane in the fleet, wherever you are, at four to six hours notice. You have a guaranteed buy-back of your capital asset at "fair market value," typically after five years.

"We were first with fractional ownership with our NetJet program in 1987,"

The Frequent Traveler

says Kevin Russell, senior vice president of Executive Jet Inc. in New Jersey. "It grew very slowly at first; but as we began to come out of the recession in 1991/92, the idea started to take off, and revenue has grown 50 percent a year from 1992 to 1995."

"We have 300 owners right now — 30 percent are private individuals, 50 percent are private companies and the rest are large public corporations who use NetJet to supplement their existing corporate fleets."

"NetJet serves a very broad niche. If you fly between 70 and 400 hours a year you might want to think about fractional ownership — less than 70 hours, it's better to charter. However, we do have NetJet owners who only fly 50 hours and own a one-sixteenth share. Each one-eighth share gives you 100 hours a year occupied flying. You have a bank of time — 500 hours over five years — so you can use, say, 70 hours this year and 125 next year."

"We came into fractional ownership as a manufacturer of Learjets and Challengers to expand the market for people who really need a business jet but cannot justify owning and operating a whole plane of their own," says Robert Gillespie, president of Bombardier Business Jet Solutions, a sister company of American Airlines, in Dallas. "In the States there are 5,000 jets owned by 3,500 companies or individuals. But there are more than 50,000 companies with an-

nual sales of more than 25 million dollars. That's a lot of people out there who need to be on the move and in touch with far-flung operations, suppliers or customers. If you're going anywhere other than to the major hubs, you end up having to make connections. It's all about time."

Business Jet Solutions' FlexJet program offers multiples of one-eighth shares over five years in three types of plane: Learjet 31A, Learjet 60, and Challenger 601-3R for a minimum of 100 hours per year. A one-eighth share of a Learjet 31A costs \$700,000 purchase price, \$5,500 a month and \$1,500 for each hour you fly. You can trade up or down between types of plane as your needs change.

"FlexJet is cheaper than buying your own plane if you fly less than 500 hours a year and cheaper than your own used plane at about 300 hours a year," Gillespie says. "Charter is tough to compare because it depends on exactly how you fly. If you're just going straight out and back from a major center without deadhead legs and standby charges, charter will be cheaper every time. You're looking at \$1,500 an hour to charter a Learjet 31A. Assuming 100 occupied hours a year just going out and back, that's \$750,000 over five years which is cheaper than FlexJet."

EXECUTIVE Jet plans to launch NetJet in Europe in the first quarter of 1996 in a marketing alliance with Zimex Aviation in Zurich. "Several U.S. companies have asked for the program over there so we're going to start positioning some Citations in Europe," Russell says. "We're also looking at the Middle East and Asia. In China, for example, there's a big demand for business jets."

"We spent a lot of money promoting a look-alike program to NetJet, but reluctantly pulled out earlier this year," says Tony Mack, chairman of Air London, the largest charter broker in Europe. "I think one day fractional ownership will come but it may take years. You have cross-border problems of owning a plane: a German, Swiss, Belgian and a Brit all wanting it tax-allowable."

"Charter, though, is growing fast as the recession fades. Our profits were up 68 percent last year and we arranged 5,000 charters for about 500 clients all over the world; about 44 percent of our business is overseas. Companies — and travel agencies — are now looking at the 'total travel solution' and charter may be part of that. How else do you get from North Dakota to Florence except by a combination of scheduled and charter? People fly out to Hong Kong on a nice scheduled carrier, then pick up a business jet and fly around China for a week. Some things you can't do by conventional means."

HEAR THIS

With Christmas a month away, Coca Cola is sending eight of its classic Santa Claus paintings to the Louvre. Cultural imperialism for sure, but they won't hang with the Mona Lisa. The Santas drinking soda pop will be part of a show on advertising in the underground mall.

AT A GLANCE: GOOD TRAVEL DEALS

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HOLIDAY INN/VISA/AVIS	Asia-Pacific	Pay with Visa and get 40 to 50 percent off room rates at participating Holiday Inns and Crown Plaza hotels and resorts plus 30 percent discount on Avis rental. Until Jan. 31.
HYATT	Worldwide	Winter Promotion offers savings of up to 45 percent on published rates at 56 hotels in Europe, Middle East, USA, South America, and Asia-Pacific. From Dec. 1 to Feb. 29.
INTER-CONTINENTAL	Asia-Pacific	"Seasonal Spectacular" low rates single/double for minimum two-night stay include buffet breakfast and double miles with participating airlines. Subject to availability; some blackout dates. Until Jan. 31.
QANTAS	South Pacific	Travelers arriving in Australia, New Zealand or Fiji with any carrier can buy a Qantas South Pacific airpass for travel either within Australia or for trips among the three countries. Pass costs from 180 to 230 Australian dollars (\$133 to \$170) a sector.
SWISSAIR	France to Switzerland	FFP members earn a bonus of 750 miles in economy and 1,500 in business class on all flights between France and Switzerland. Until Dec. 15.

Although the IHT carefully checks these offers, please be forewarned that some travel agents may be unaware of them, or unable to book them.

THE ARTS GUIDE

BELGIUM

Bruges
Kunstenmuseum Oud Sint-Jaan, tel: (50) 33-58-56, open daily. To Jan. 1: "Recent British Sculpture." A tribute to contemporary British sculptors, including Tony Craig, Richard Deacon and Veronica Ryan.

BRITAIN

London
Covent Garden, tel: (171) 304-4000. A new production of Paul Hindemith's "Mathis der Maler." Directed by Peter Sellars, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen, with Inga Nielsen, Christiane Oelze and Alan Titus. Nov. 28, Dec. 1 and 6.
Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 434-5615, open daily. Continuing To Jan. 28: "Africa: The Art of a Continent."
Hayward Gallery, tel: (171) 928-8800, open daily. To Jan. 14: "German Photographs of the 1930s." 150 photographs give an insight into the lives of ordinary Germans and reflect the

shift from the relaxed Weimar style to the regimentation of the Third Reich.

FRANCE

Paris
Centre Georges Pompidou, tel: (1) 44-78-13-00, closed Tuesdays. Continuing To Feb. 12: "Féminin-Masculin: le Sexe de l'Art." 500 works by more than 100 artists tentatively document the concept of gender in art. Also, To Jan. 1: "Laszlo Moholy-Nagy." Hungarian sculptor, painter, designer and photographer.
Grand Palais, tel: (1) 44-13-17-17, closed Tuesdays. Continuing To Jan. 1: "Cézanne." About 200 paintings, watercolors and drawings by the Provencal painter.
Musée National des Arts et Traditions Populaires, tel: (1) 44-17-60-00, closed Tuesdays. To May 6: "Le Compagnonnage: Chemin de l'Excellence." Documents the tradition, institutions and work of the members of the French trade guilds, from the 15th century to the present.

GERMANY

Hannover
Wilhelm-Busch-Museum, tel: (511) 71-40-76, closed Mondays. To Jan. 28: "Von Goya bis Dubuffet." More than 30 graphic print series reflecting political, artistic and sociological changes from 1789 to the 1950s. Includes works by Beckmann, Chagall, Dix, Goya, Klinger, Toulouse-Lautrec and Picasso.

ITALY

Bologna
Galleria d'Arte Moderna, tel: (51) 50-28-56, open daily. To Jan. 14: "Henry Moore: Gli Uomini Diedi Anni." More than 90 works, including 25 sculptures, created by Henry Moore in his last 10 years.

POLAND

Lodz
Museum Sztuki, tel: (42) 748-698, closed Mondays. To April 14: "From Tadeusz Kantor's Estate." 200 works

by the Polish artist and playwright.

SPAIN


Barcelona
Museu Picasso, tel: (3) 319-63-10, closed Mondays. To Jan. 28: "Picasso and Els Quatre Gats." Works created between 1898 and 1904 document Picasso's relationship with the Catalan avant-garde.

UNITED STATES

New York
Brooklyn Museum, tel: (718) 638-5000, closed Mondays and Tuesdays. To Jan. 14: "Expressionism: 20th Century German Prints." Woodcuts, linocuts, prints, and lithographs by Nolde, Klee, Kollwitz and Baselitz.

Washington
Kennedy Center, tel: (202) 416-7800. Strauss's "Der Rosenkavalier." Conducted by Heinz Fricke with Helen Donath, Jeanne Pined and Eric Halfonson. Nov. 24, 26 and 28.

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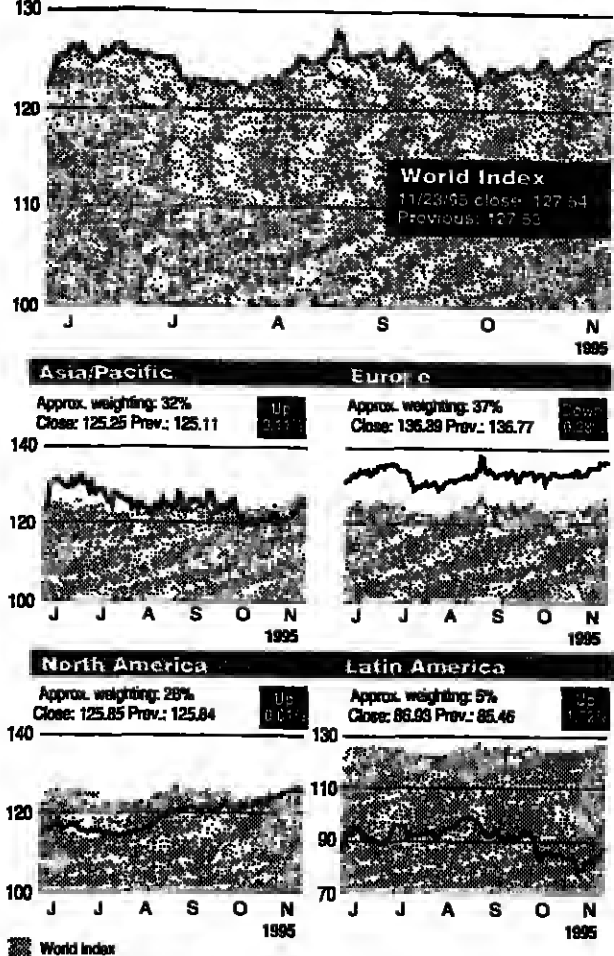
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Sector	Close	Prev.	% Change
Energy	129.53	129.85	-0.25
Utilities	124.79	124.51	+0.22
Finance	119.66	119.65	+0.01
Services	118.81	118.78	+0.03
Capital Goods	131.52	131.47	+0.04
Raw Materials	142.62	141.67	+0.67
Consumer Goods	133.07	133.21	-0.11
Miscellaneous	134.58	134.85	-0.19

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Mr. Artioli's Dream Car Spins Out Bugatti Maker Fights for Control of Insolvent Firm

By John Tagliabue
New York Times Service

MODENA, Italy — Romano Artioli has always glowed at the mention of the word Bugatti — stirred by memories of roadsters like the fabulous Type 41, dubbed La Royale, that Ettore Bugatti built for Europe's gilded set between the world wars.

Mr. Artioli, who built a fortune importing Japanese cars into Italy and exporting Italian sports cars to Germany, dreamed of reviving the Bugatti name on a line of luxury cars designed in the spirit of the originals.

But in September, Mr. Artioli's dream was shattered when a court here declared Bugatti Automobili SpA, the company he built, insolvent after it failed to pay \$125 million of debts.

Alberto Levoni, a law professor in Modena and Mr. Artioli's lawyer, said Mr. Artioli had "squeezed dry the lemon" of his personal fortune and that a search for outside investors, which turned up an Indian maharaja among other potential participants, had been fruitless in the end.

Some have suggested that Bugatti's problems could even threaten Mr. Artioli's other assets, such as the Group Lotus sports-car company in Britain that he acquired in 1993 from General Motors

Corp., but Mr. Levoni denied this.

Mr. Artioli remains undaunted. The insolvent decision, he said in September, "has thrown us to the ground, but I will not throw in the sponge."

The story began in the 1980s, when Mr. Artioli, a self-made man from Bolzano in northeastern Italy, bought the rights to Ettore Bugatti's name, as well as more than 45,000 of his drawings and designs, from a French government agency that acquired them after Mr. Bugatti died without heirs in 1947.

Mr. Artioli built a gleaming factory, Bugatti Automobili, near Modena, the birthplace of such legendary sports cars as the Ferrari and the Maserati.

In 1991, as 1,000 bottles of champagne were popped, he unveiled the EB-110, a \$300,000 roadster with a monstrous 12-cylinder engine and a six-speed transmission, on the terraces of the Palace of Versailles in France. The name was a reference to Ettore Bugatti and the 110th anniversary of his birth in Milan. Some critics declared the EB-110 the most beautiful car ever built.

Two years later, he followed up at the Geneva Auto Show with a prototype of the EB-112, a four-door model by the Italian auto designer Giugiaro.

At about the same time, Mr. Artioli started a company in Bolzano called Ettore

Bugatti to market designer products such as scarves, fountain pens, men's clothing and luggage bearing the EB logo.

To finance all this, Mr. Artioli had borrowed heavily, though he mainly drew on his personal fortune.

In an interview last year with the International Herald Tribune, Mr. Artioli said he owned only 18 percent of the carmaker, with the rest held by Bugatti Investment, a Luxembourg-based company whose stock was split among five European industrial groups.

But in a later interview with the Herald Tribune, Mario Barbieri, vice chairman of Bugatti Automobili, said Mr. Artioli was the majority owner and had been since the company's founding in 1987.

Though the designer goods sold nicely, only 150 of the EB-110 cars were built. Mr. Artioli said about 35 were shipped to Germany, but the car was virtually excluded from the crucial American market by safety standards. As the yen appreciated against Western currencies, meanwhile, Mr. Artioli's Japanese car business stalled in Europe. By 1994, Bugatti Automobili was sputtering.

A consortium of Italian businessmen bid for Bugatti this year, pursuing a strategy of reviving the car to sell designer products. But when insolvency was declared, the offer was withdrawn.

Enron Agrees to Cut Cost of India Plant

Bloomberg Business News

BOMBAY — Enron Corp. agreed to cut the cost of a stalled \$2.8 billion power plant by at least \$750 million if a state government revived the project, India's biggest foreign investment, two people familiar with the negotiations said Thursday.

The American energy company could cut the cost of the project by as much as \$1 billion, these people said, in return for approval by the Maharashtra state government. Enron also agreed to increase the capacity of the project.

"This will set a new benchmark for the country," one of the people said of the agreement. Enron's offer is part of a package recommended to the state government by a team the government set up to negotiate with the company.

The government agreed Nov. 4 to renegotiate the two-phase project after announcing in August it would cancel it because it was too expensive. It is now considering its team's recommendation to allow Enron to resume work at the site 100 miles (160 kilometers) south of Bombay.

Enron's joint venture in India, Dabhol Power Co., will save about \$470 million by transferring the cost of one of its facilities to a separate company. The facility, which is to turn liquefied natural gas back into a gas, will sell its output to the plant and to third parties.

Enron agreed to cut other project costs by about \$360 million, one of the people familiar with the talks said. Part of that saving would be realized by Enron tendering for equipment for the project's second phase rather than buying it from its partners in the venture, General Electric

Co. and Bechtel Inc. The savings from both components could be higher, possibly totaling \$1 billion.

Enron also offered to increase the capacity of the plant to around 2,215 megawatts from the 2,095 megawatts originally planned. That means the cost per megawatt could fall as low as 26.5 million rupees (\$762,000) from 49 million rupees.

The Maharashtra State Electricity Board, the government-run distributor, will be offered a 30 percent stake in the project. The government wanted more, but Enron said it could not offer more because of agreements with its lenders.

Another factor in favor of reviving the project is power shortages. The state government announced this week it would cut power supplies to parts of the state for seven months starting in December.

Bonn Blames Currency for Halt in Growth

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BONN — German economic growth ground to a halt in the third quarter, the government said Thursday, blaming the strong Deutsche mark and soaring labor costs for driving up the price of German goods and squeezing company profits.

The Economics Ministry put an official stamp on private-sector reports that the two-year-old recovery has stalled, saying that gross domestic product was "virtually unchanged" in the July-to-September period.

The ministry added that the year-to-year change in the third quarter was "clearly" lower than the 2.6 percent year-on-year growth rate posted in the first half.

The Federal Statistics Office is due to release detailed data on the third quarter on Dec. 7, but the Economics Ministry often released its own estimate in advance.

Most economists also expect growth to remain static in the fourth quarter as companies cut production further to reduce to reduce inventory.

The main culprit, the ministry said in its monthly economic report, was the appreciation of the mark, which made German products too expensive in some export markets and robbed Germany of its full share of growing world trade.

"The effect was to brake domestic investment activity, add to pressures to streamline operations and magnify the trend of companies to move jobs to cheaper foreign regions," the ministry said.

The expansion of Europe's biggest economy had already slowed to an annual rate of 2.5 percent in the second quarter from 3.7 percent in the last quarter of 1994.

With a moribund economy and no sign of inflation, spec-

ulation has grown that the Bundesbank will make stimulative cuts in German interest rates, already at the lowest levels in seven years.

Lower rates could help cool the mark. The currency's surge this year of 9 percent against the dollar and 4 percent against a weighted measure of the currencies of Germany's trading partners has unleashed a wave of German corporate investment in lower-cost locations.

German businesses have been coping with a steadily rising currency for 20 years, the legacy of the Bundesbank's tough monetary policies and the resulting use of the mark as the world's No. 2 reserve currency behind the dollar.

Bundesbank council member Hans-Jürgen Krupp became the first to quantify the human cost of the sky-high mark, saying this week that the economic slowdown would cost Germany a quarter million jobs in 1995 and 1996.

(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

French Growth Stalls

French economic growth seems to have almost come to a halt in the third quarter with a rate "close to zero," the government-owned Caisse des Dépôts & Consignations said Thursday, Agence France-Presse reported from Paris.

Government figures will be released Wednesday. Caisse des Dépôts said there were several negative factors at work in the French economy in the third quarter, including stagnant consumption and "feeble" business investment.

The bank estimated that French economic growth for 1995 would be 2.7 percent, down from earlier expectations of 2.9 percent. It revised its estimate for growth in 1996 to 2.3 percent from 2.7 percent.

ECONOMIC SCENE

World Trade Still Needs U.S. Leadership

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Whether it means to or not, the United States is close to abandoning the world trade leadership that it has exercised for the past half century, with ominous implications for the open world trading system.

Declining American influence was more obvious than ever at last weekend's summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Osaka, where the United States failed to persuade the group's Asian members to move toward free trade along traditional American lines.

It was the first time a major international economic group incorporating the United States has so strongly resisted the postwar Anglo-Saxon model of trade liberalization.

Instead of negotiating mutual concessions in a framework of binding rules and deadlines, APEC will more likely muddle ahead in what was hailed as the "Asian way." Consensus will be reached voluntarily, depending on the wishes of the 18 members at any one point — making it less probable that they will meet the target of complete free trade by 2020.

That means that President Bill Clinton's grandiose twin plans for free trade areas in Asia and Latin America — once trumpeted as dramatic foreign policy successes — are now both in serious trouble. Prospects for a trans-Atlantic free trade

area, which could have put the United States at the hub of three huge trade zones, also are rapidly receding.

The Western Hemisphere free-trade plan remains blocked in Washington, where Mr. Clinton and the Republican-led Congress cannot agree on terms for negotiating the next step: Chile's entry into the North American Free Trade Agreement.

As most Latin American countries are pressing rapidly ahead with their own free-trade arrangements, the deadlock threatens U.S. primacy in the drive to open Western hemisphere markets.

In APEC, Washington's setback is due partly to the relative decline in American economic power now that East Asian countries conduct nearly half their trade with each other. The importance of the U.S. market, and American political leverage, are both diminishing — and the same thing will happen soon in Latin America.

It is not necessarily bad for the regional free-trade areas to receive a cold shower of reality. Although they can be useful in pioneering multilateral trade liberalization, regional trade zones also risk becoming hostile, warring blocs.

In any case, business is more interested in the laborious process of opening markets in fields such as customs and standards, which is continuing, than in grandiose long-term visions.

Much more serious would be a weakening of the U.S. commitment to a stronger and more open multilateral trading system, the driving force behind so

fewer than eight rounds of postwar world trade negotiations.

As Hugo Paemen and Alexandra Bensch point out in a new book, the latest and most comprehensive of these endeavors, the Uruguay Round, would never have happened without American "tenacity." Mr. Paemen, now head of the European Union delegation in Washington, was one of the top Uruguay Round negotiators for the EU. The book, "From the GATT to the WTO: The European Community in the Uruguay Round," is published by Leuven University Press in Belgium.

But Washington has at least temporarily withdrawn from its leadership role, mainly because support for new free-trade initiatives in the United States these days is close to zero.

No Republican presidential contender is trumpeting around New Hampshire singing the praises of free trade. Nor is Mr. Clinton. Bob Dole, the Republican front-runner, says trade liberalization should take a pause. Only Pat Buchanan, a fiery but crude protectionist, is winning applause on trade issues.

After the election, however, Washington must take steps to reinforce the multilateral system while it still can. It will soon be time to prepare the ninth trade round — which should be called "WTO 2000," after the new World Trade Organization, says Jeffrey J. Schott of the Institute for International Economics. The EU can help. But if Washington can no longer lead, the whole postwar system will be at risk.

Leeson Held on Return to Singapore

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Nicholas Leeson, the fugitive British futures trader whose massive losses caused the collapse of Barings PLC, will appear in a Singapore court Friday to face charges that could carry a long jail sentence.

Mr. Leeson, dressed in a green sweatshirt with a baseball cap worn backwards on his head, was formally arrested at Singapore airport Thursday after financial police from Singapore's Commercial Affairs Department escorted him back from Frankfurt, Germany, under an extradition order. He smiled slightly and appeared untroubled by a battery of reporters, but said nothing.

Singapore authorities have prepared charges against him on 11 counts of fraud and forgery, which carry a maximum jail sentence of 14 years. But legal sources said that Mr. Leeson was expected to provide evidence that could help in the prosecution of several former senior executives of Barings.

They said that if he did, the presiding judge could decide to reduce the severity of any sentence. Singapore does not have trial by jury.

Mr. Leeson, 29, fled Singapore in February shortly before the Barings group collapsed under the weight of more than \$1 billion in losses from his trading on futures exchanges in Singapore and Japan.

An investigation into the Barings affair that was commissioned by the Singapore government and released in October criticized senior managers of the group for incompetence in failing to control Mr. Leeson's activities.

Mr. Leeson agreed to drop a final appeal against his extradition and apologized for doubting whether he would get a fair trial in Singapore.

Mr. Leeson was accompanied on the flight by his wife, Lisa. They were allowed to sit together for most of flight, the longest time they have spent together since his arrest in Frankfurt on March 2.

Dollar's Loss, No One's Gain

By Carl Gewirtz
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The dollar is down and losing status, but neither the Deutsche mark nor the yen can yet lay claim to the role as the favored replacement, according to an authoritative study issued Thursday.

"There is no clear-cut indication" that the dollar's slide "has unilaterally favored either the yen or the German mark," the Bank for International Settlements said in a quarterly report.

From 1976 to mid-1995, the value of the dollar tumbled 72 percent from its high against the yen and 60 percent from its high against the mark.

During that period, the report shows, the dollar has given up between 20 percent and 36 percent of its share in three key sectors: official reserves, bank liabilities and international bonds.

The dollar accounted for 61 percent of official foreign exchange reserves in major industrialized countries at the end of last year, up from its low of 55 percent in 1990 but well below the nearly 80 percent share it had in 1976.

Both the mark, now accounting for almost 10 percent of reserves, and the yen, with almost 7 percent, have substantially increased market share since the mid-1980s.

The dollar's share of deposits made by non-

bank entities with international banks at midyear was only 41 percent, down from 77 percent in 1984. The mark's share is now about 20 percent, compared with less than 4 percent for the yen.

Likewise, the dollar's share of international bonds outstanding is now only 33 percent, compared with just over 60 percent in 1985. The yen now accounts for 18 percent of bonds outstanding, compared with 10 percent for the mark.

The increased use of the yen and the mark, the report said, "can be explained by regulatory and fiscal amendments, in addition to risk-aversion factors."

Indeed, it says, the decline in the relative importance of the dollar "has been more closely related to widespread currency diversification than to the adoption of a single substitute currency."

Dollar Rises in Light Trading

The dollar rose against most other major currencies in light trading on European markets, Agence France-Presse reported from London.

The currency rose to 1.4114 DM from 1.4087 DM on Wednesday, to 100.70 yen from 100.62 yen, to 1.1410 Swiss francs from 1.1389 francs and to 4.8635 French francs from 4.8605. The pound rose to \$1.5640 from \$1.5598. U.S. and Japanese markets were closed for holidays.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates										Eurocurrency Deposits										Nov. 23																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
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ENI Offering Falls Flat With Wary Retail Investors

MILAN — The Italian government, which wrapped up the first part of its 6.3 billion lire (\$396 billion) sale of Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi SpA on Wednesday, is finding the country's individual investors a skeptical lot.

By the time the retail part of the sale was closed, only 400 million shares of the world's eighth-largest oil and gas company had been bought by small investors, far below projections. The government originally set aside as many as 1-billion shares for retail investors.

"The ENI sale was a paradox," said Erich Stock, manager of the Italy Fund at Lehman Brothers. "It was the only privatization with a downside protection, and it has been the least successful in terms of retail participation. This was the reaction of investors who lost almost

in the utility ENEL SpA and the rest of ENI.

ENI, which has annual revenue of more than \$30 billion, represents the largest Italian asset sale ever and the largest initial public offering in the world this year. The bulk of the government's 15 percent stake is being sold to institutional investors, who grabbed 750 million shares.

"Right now, people are skeptical of buying a company in the process of privatization because previous sales have demonstrated scant returns," said Semino Stigliano, equity fund manager at Arca Fondi SpA.

Skepticism about the ENI sale comes as little surprise to many who have followed the Italian market's performance, however. The Mibtel index has fallen 11 percent since September.

(Bloomberg, AFP)

■ **INA to Propose Share Repurchase**
Istituto Nazionale delle Assicurazioni said it would ask shareholders for permission to buy back 5 percent, or 400 billion lire, of its shares outstanding. Bloomberg Business News reported that Milan-based INA said it would ask shareholders on Jan. 10 to approve the purchase of as many as 200 million shares at as much as 3,000 lire a share.

Banks Shun Ferruzzi Issue

GM Weighs New Plant In Poland

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
WARSAW — General Motors Corp. began talks with the government Thursday on a plan to build a state-of-the-art car plant in Poland to produce as many as 100,000 vehicles annually, possibly in 1998.

David Herman, the president of GM's German unit Adam Opel AG, met with Poland's industry minister, Klemens Scierski, to discuss building a factory valued at as much as \$500 million Deutsche marks (\$390 million). Mr. Herman said he expected to finish talks on the project by the end of January.

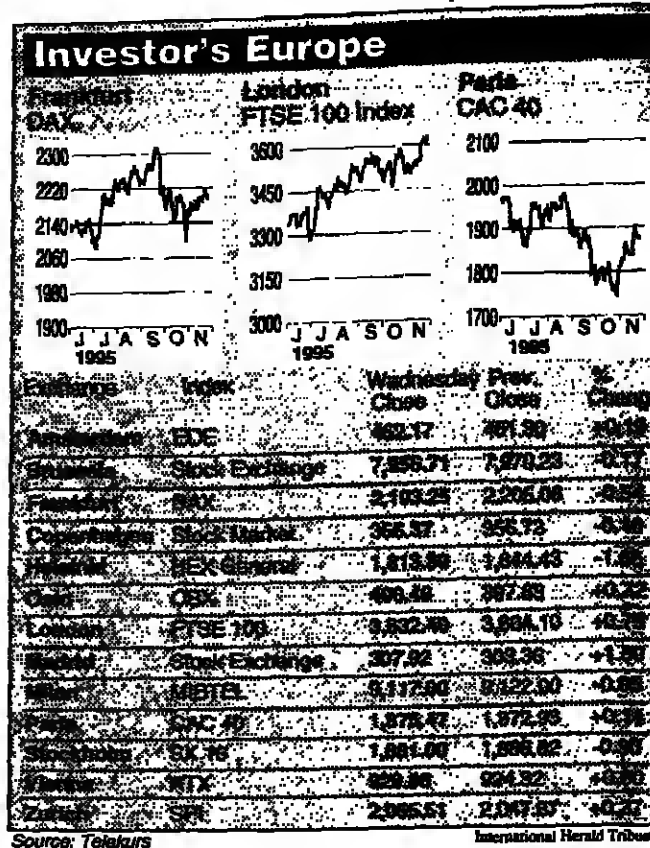
GM is planning to end its joint venture with the Polish carmaker Fabryka Samochodow Osobowych, known as FSO, because Daewoo Motor Co. bought a controlling stake in the Polish company. For the moment, Opel continues to assemble its Astra models at the FSO factory.

GM said that because auto production in Poland was vital to its European strategy, it would try to open its own production facility with a capacity of 70,000 to 100,000 passenger cars annually.

GM also said it would open a regional purchasing office in Warsaw. Opel and GM "intend to support the Polish supplier industry and will be significantly increasing purchases of production materials from Central Europe in the coming years."

The new factory is expected to employ about 2,000 people.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)



Very briefly:

- **Britain's** Department of Trade and Industry called for an antitrust review of two proposed acquisitions of regional electricity companies: National Power PLC's £2.8 billion (\$4.37 billion) bid for Southern Electric PLC and PowerGen PLC's £1.9-billion bid for Midlands Electricity PLC.
- **Suntory Ltd.**, a Japanese brewer and distiller, denied reports that it would top a £3.4 billion hostile bid by Granada Group PLC for Forte PLC, the hotel and restaurant concern.
- **Finland's** forestry industry association said prices of newsprint and fine paper could rise further despite production cuts.
- **Tunisia** plans to sell a stake in its main petroleum distribution company, known as AGIL.
- **Kjoenhavns Sommer-Tivoli AS**, operator of the Tivoli Gardens amusement park in Copenhagen, posted a loss of 18.2 million kroner (\$3.4 million) for the year ended Sept. 30, the first

Thursday, Nov. 23					High	Low	Cover	Prev.
Prices in local currencies.								
Tefekurs								
High	Low	Close	Prev.					
Amsterdam								
BN-AMRO								
67.30	78.30	70.60	70.60					
67.30	63.10	62.50	62.50					
63.30	67.50	63.30	62.70					
77.50	72.50	74.20	71.70					
31	26.30	26.30	30.60					
GSM								
47.50	61	66.50	65.80					
Telecom Pnl								
229.30	226.70	229.20	229.20					
125.90	131.60	124.20	124.20					
55.50	57.10	57.10	57.10					
Nederland								
158.30	130.30	137.50	130.30					
Telecom								
45.90	44.50	45.90	44.80					
83.60	81.60	83.10	83.30					
271.50	267.50	270.50	267.80					
55.50	57.10	57.10	57.10					
77.50	72.50	74.20	71.70					
31	26.30	26.30	30.60					
67.30	78.30	70.60	70.60					
67.30	63.10	62.50	62.50					
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77.50	72.50	74.20	71.70					
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125.90	131.60	124.20	124.20					
55.50	57.10	57.10	57.10					
158.30	130.30	137.50	130.30					
45.90	44.50	45.90	44.80					
83.60	81.60	83.10	83.30					
271.50	267.50	270.50	267.80					
55.50	57.10	57.10	57.10					
77.50	72.50	74.20	71.70					
31	26.30	26.30	30.60					
67.30	78.30	70.60	70.60					
67.30	63.10	62.50	62.50					
63.30	67.50	63.30	62.70					
77.50	72.50	74.20	71.70					
31	26.30	26.30	30.60					
47.50	61	66.50	65.80					
229.30	226.70	229.20	229.20					
125.90	131.60	124.20	124.20					
55.50	57.10	57.10	57.10					
158.30	130.30	137.50	130.30					
45.90	44.50	45.90	44.80					
83.60	81.60	83.10	83.30					
271.50	267.50	270.50	267.80					
55.50	57.10	57.10	57.10					
77.50	72.50	74.20	71.70					
31	26.30	26.30	30.60					
47.50	61	66.50	65.80					
229.30	226.70	229.20	229.20					
125.90	131.60	124.20</						

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Market Close

Area-Serona B	840	780	799	308
Boyer Hdy B	1360	1350	1260	1345
Bolshak Hdy R	2400	2385	2385	2405
BSC B	1364	1356	1256	1256
BK Vision	1484	1448	1484	1472
Bolest B	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	1850

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2-Game Sweep Over Pittsburgh Boosts Rangers

mpleted a two-game home-and-home sweep of the Penguins. "I'm not so sure Pittsburgh was totally on their game last night. I've seen them better."

With two games against Toronto and one each against Detroit and New Jersey, the Rangers were looking at the witch as a measuring stick. On Tuesday night, they crushed the Penguins in New York 9-4 before beating them in Pittsburgh. Was the first time the North Star Division leaders lost consecutive games.

Mike Richter made 40 saves, D Wayne Presley scored a shorthanded goal, his first in 21 years, to key the Rangers' victory.

Whalers 4, Canadiens 2 In Hartford, Connecticut, Robert on scored a shorthanded goal, D Jeff Reese stopped seven red-period shots in relief of



only unbeaten team at home. Chris Simon, Claude Lemieux, Andrei Kovalenko and Stéphane Yelle added a goal each for the Avalanche.

Chillers 2, Mighty Ducks 0 Kim Malby and David Oliver each scored a goal, and Bill Ranford turned aside 31 shots to lead Edmonton over visiting Anaheim.

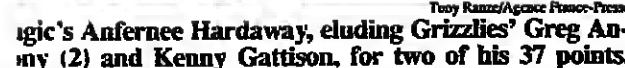
The shutout was the 11th of Ranford's career and his second at home in 1995.

By Jennifer A. Wagner
New York Times Service

"You can't explain it," said Roy. "It's not about hockey. It's phone calls from Australia, faxes from I don't know how many countries. I find a lack of words for this. It breaks our hearts to hear some of these stories, what these people are willing to sacrifice for our son."

Vaught ignited an 11-point run at the start of the fourth quarter. Los Angeles won for the sixth time in eight games. New Jersey is 0-5 on the road, but 4-0 at home.

Arizona, which is ranked No.19, made fewer errors than 16th-ranked Michigan.



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at 0130 848585.

DOONESBURY FLASHBACKS

MR. BUTTS, IT LIKES TO BE A BLANKET MESSAGE TO WIN IN THE STYLE OF THE COMBUSTION, PROUD AND PHYSICALLY FIT...

BUT WE HAVE HEARD THAT WITH THE CURRENT TREND, OVER 30 MILLION OF MY GENERATION WILL BE FROM KIBBOO IN CHINA...

SURE, BUT REMEMBER, SON, THAT'S NOT ALL SHOKERS! ANECDOTALLY, YOU'LL PROBABLY LIVE TO BE 100!

SURE! SEE, THE AMBRO MAN IS AN INDIVIDUAL... HE LIVES OUTSIDE THE STATISTICS!

OBSERVER

Glued to the Tube

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — A majority of Americans say they now get most of their news from television. To see how the world looks to this majority, your correspondent spent six months glued to his TV screen. Following is the typical American view of the world:

The two most important people on earth are Newt Gingrich and President Clinton. O.J. Simpson, who used to be Number Three, has slipped badly and is not even in the top 20 anymore. The new Number Three is Deion Sanders.

The other 17 are Bill Gates, Oprah Winfrey, Rupert Murdoch, Michael Eisner, Arnold Schwarzenegger, James Bond, Stephen King, Howard Stern, George Stephanopoulos, the Dallas Cowboys, the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Larry King and the first five Americans mentioned on tomorrow's edition of "Entertainment Tonight."

The fact that all 20 are Americans not only shows how little of consequence happens outside our own country. It also proves the truth of that old adage: "When you leave the United States, everywhere else is just Bridgeport."

Most of the world outside the United States is composed of Bosnia and Israel. The only important foreigner is Boris Yeltsin. He drinks too much vodka and is sick a lot. Yeltsin holds a very important job somewhere in Russia.

The most important street on earth is the Beltway. What goes on inside it is just terrible. The most important event in the world is our own American presidential campaign. Some of the people running include Sen-

ator Bob Dole and Senator Phil Gramm, as well as several others whose names don't stay with you the way names like Jay Leno and David Letterman do. Italy, Spain, France and Germany still exist, but nothing ever seems to happen there, except the running of the bulls in Pamplona. Sometimes new women's dress designs are shown in Paris.

Somebody named Kohl is in charge of Germany. He is a big fellow — as big as Clinton maybe, judging from seeing him standing next to the president on television.

Somebody is also running Italy, Spain and France, probably several different people in each. England too. They all stood together for a photo on somewhere a while ago at a meeting to talk economics, and they were all a lot smaller than Clinton and Kohl.

America's troubles all stem from family values. There just aren't any anymore. They have been destroyed by modern life, which most of our political leaders want repealed so we can get family values back and save the country.

Television, the Internet, liberals, affirmative action, the Mexican peso and the terrible things going on inside the Beltway are all destroying family values too. The crime that's going on is simply incredible.

Yes, firing another 35,000 workers every few days is sure hard on fired folks who are a little long in the tooth, but it's how we're making America competitive once again with Japan.

Have we overlooked anything? But of course! Those French nukes off Tahiti. Awful, wasn't it? It's hard to say why, though.

New York Times Service

By Michael Sragow

POINT RICHMOND, California — When the animators at Pixar were working on the new movie "Toy Story," they ran into some novel problems. At one point, in the story, two toys, the marionette-like cowboy Woody and the space ranger named Buzz, sneak into a fast-food joint camouflaged in a milkshake cup and burger box.

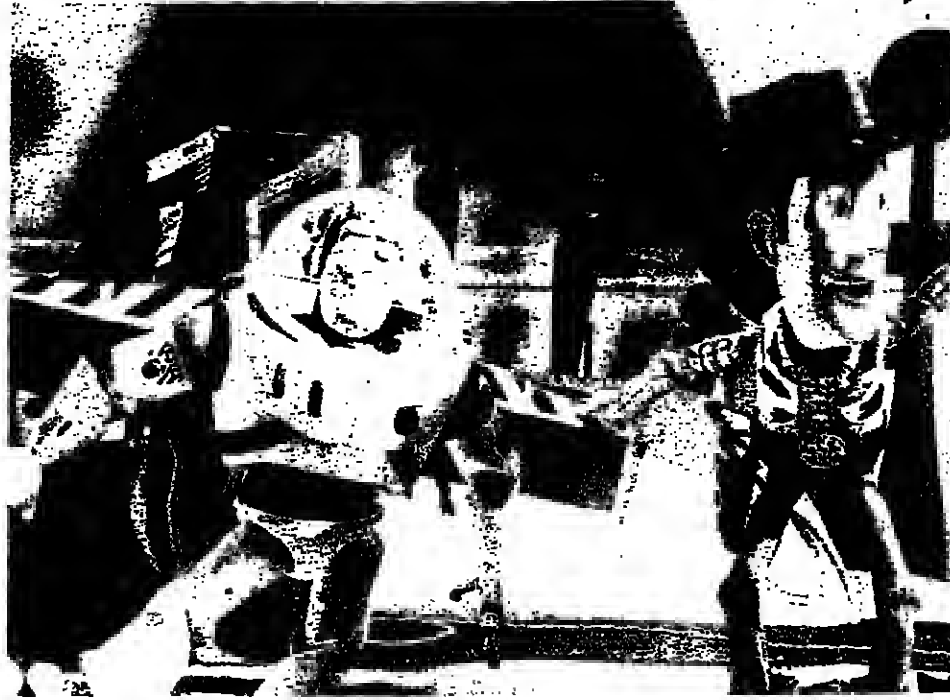
The first time they put the scene together, Woody's head poked through the cup's plastic cap and Buzz's through the box's cardboard top. That kind of glitch would never have happened on the primarily hand-drawn cartoons "The Lion King" and "Beauty and the Beast." The error occurred because "Toy Story" is the first full-length movie ever made with computer animation. Buzz and Woody's movement and scale had not yet been precisely coordinated with the cup and the box. But it took only a few keystrokes to correct the mistake, not hundreds of revised drawings.

To make "Toy Story," which opened this week in the United States, sets were built and decorated and cameras placed just as in a live-action film — except within cyberspace. Characters and props were modeled, shaded and their surfaces altered according to the light, all by programming a computer. Tough characters, like an evil canine named Scud, warranted mixed-clay-and-epoxy-resin sculptures that were "3-D scanned," or digitized. Painters sitting at computers added handmade touches. Then these elements had to be merged without a seam.

It sounds like Dagwood-sandwich moviemaking, but its creators hope that their brand of computer animation will bring an unprecedented elegance to the art. Eben Ostby, a "Toy Story" modeling specialist, says, "You get all this detail: there's dirt on the walls, there's texture everywhere."

With regular animation, seconds of film represent weeks of thought and labor. That is true as well with "Toy Story," which took four years to finish. In fact, the principal partners of Pixar, a Bay Area animation studio known for innovative short subjects and commercials, had been preparing to do a full-length movie for decades.

"Toy Story," a Walt Disney release, is a buddy toon. It's about the disruption of the pecking order among one boy's toys when Buzz Lightyear (with the voice of Tim Allen) displaces Woody (Tom Hanks) on the child's birthday. Jealousy, rivalry and rapprochement follow. The boy, Andy, is a peripheral figure. The real sup-



Buzz and Woody in "Toy Story," the first full-length computer-animation movie.

porting characters are figurines and gadgets, some generic, like an insecure plastic T. Rex (Wallace Shawn), and some classic, like the sputtery Potato Head (Don Rickles), who keeps hoping that Andy's next gift will be Mrs. Potato Head.

The film's 38-year-old director, John Lasseter, made his name with Pixar-produced shorts like "Luxo Jr." (1986), which was nominated for an Oscar, and "Tin Toy" (1988), which won one. "Toy Story" was cooked up by Lasseter's kitchen cabinet of gag writers and idea people and an army of animators and technicians.

The movie had a difficult delivery. There were controversies and false starts. But by last January, Disney had grown so enthusiastic that a preview reel of "Toy Story" became the centerpiece of the company's traveling dog-and-pony show to promote its animated films to the press.

By last summer, Lasseter could hold a facsimile Buzz Lightyear toy in his hand, the advance guard of Disney's "Toy Story" marketing campaign. (The Mouse gets the lion's share of licensing fees, Pixar a percentage.) Pixar's building is utilitarian. But playful staff members zoom down the hallways on

scooters, and the rooms are filled with toys, art books and audio and video matter (from laser disks to vinyl LPs). The techies tend to be focused, affable sorts in their 40s and 50s; the toonies tend to be jocular, expansive sorts in their 20s and 30s. The techies have advanced degrees; the toonies have their own trophies, like Lasseter's autographed poster of the Japanese cartoon hit "My Neighbor Totoro."

"When I was looking for animators," says Lasseter, "I looked at guys who worked with clay, cel, sand and pencils; no matter what the medium, I wanted to see if they were able to take a character and make us feel that it was breathing and thinking. You need to have an innate sense of time and motion to do that, which is sometimes harder to come by than draftsmanship. I think there are gifted animators out there who can't draw worth beans. The computer made me a better animator because even though I wasn't a great draftsman, it enabled me to deal with pure motion."

Editing, or "tweaking," the motion is at the heart of the whole process. "The tweaking is what brings the characters to life, adding half a second to the movement of an arm, or making the

arm rotate," Lasseter says. "And that's where I think computer animation is unique. You don't have to erase hundreds of drawings."

To Lasseter, computer art is in the details. "You think about every accessory," he says. "For Buzz, from pop-out wings that glow in the dark to karate-chop action. Then you work with the animators on the 'acting,' how Buzz walks and moves and expresses himself. Then you layer on the surface characteristics, the shaders: what does he look like when he glows in the dark?"

As in conventional animation, story artists sketch concepts with marking pens and colored pencils. Animators perfect their images by maneuvering skeletal figures on computer screens. "Our favorite metaphor is trees," Lasseter says. "You grab the trunk first, you move the tree over here, you wiggle it this way and that, and only then do you tweak the leaves. If you tweaked the leaves first and then went to move the trunk, all your leaf animation would be gone."

Real-life observation is required. The film's shader and visual-effects supervisor, Tom Porter, 43, uses the relatively basic example of Andy's skateboard: "Three guys brought in their skateboards, and I thought I duplicated their wear and tear perfectly. But the art director, Ralph Eggleston, thought the result wasn't what the skateboard should look like. He took the piece of plastic off the top of a water jug, ran down to the parking lot and scratched it on the asphalt to show how the color degenerated from red to brown and how the rim marks went up and down. So I went to the art department and had them draw out some scratches for me."

As with conventional animation, the artists and writers looked to silent comedy for inspiration. "Buster Keaton is God," says Andrew Stanton, who shares the story credit with Lasseter and Joe Ranft. In "Toy Story" he tried to use what he had learned studying the master. "I keep thinking about 'Steamboat Bill Jr.' The charm of that movie is that Keaton plays a very effeminate, non-movie man; everything funny in the movie comes from how he deals with that limitation."

Overcoming limitation is exactly what the filmmakers' favorite sequence is about: rigid plastic figures of Army men embark on a reconnaissance mission to get downstairs somehow and report on the new toys that have arrived. "Joe Grant, one of the writers of 'Dumb and Dumber,' hit it on the nose," Stanton says. "What makes the sequence is that the Army men still have plastic bases connecting their feet."

Michael Sragow, the movie critic for Seattle Weekly, wrote this for The New York Times.

POSTCARD

Harried Holidays: In Martha's Name They Trussed

By Patricia Leigh Brown
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The holidays are a time for reflection. And so it was that Tracy Dockray, a Manhattan illustrator and decorative painter, was ruminating on just what it was that led her to gold-leaf her motorcycle tank and glue-gun a coat for Zeus, her Chihuahua.

Sitting on her glue-gunned upholstery, near her glue-pinned swags, she said, "The glue gun changed my life," referring to the concealed weapon that always distinguishes a Martha Stewart person.

At this holiday season, thoughts invariably turn to Martha. Her loyal subjects are buying pecans — 200 of them — for garlands, drilling them lengthwise with a five-sixty-fourths hit and stringing them on 20-gauge wire, point to point and rounded end to rounded end. They are sifting through

cranberries — approximately 400 of them — to pierce with toothpick halves before gently inserting into Styrofoam wreaths.

The force — the blond one who strives for "a lacquered brown, glistening turkey that you can be proud of" — is with them.

Lilly and Paul Salvatore of Middletown, New Jersey, were up until 3 A.M. with a slide rule, finishing Martha's signature holiday decoration, a gingerbread house. It is modeled on Lilly Salvatore's mother's vacation house in the Caribbean, complete with a caramelized-sugar sun room and 15 separate architectural elements.

Last Thanksgiving, the couple whipped up a replica of her mother's house on Staten Island. It was a two-and-a-half-week endeavor with a tragic denouement: just after they served it, their German shepherd, Ruffian, devoured the roof.

Such disasters are not likely to befall Stewart, a latter-day Mrs. Beeton in Ar-

mani who presides over an estimated \$200 million lifestyle empire that includes books; a monthly magazine, Martha Stewart Living; and television shows. She has trussed the American home and stuffed the empty cavities of its psyche.

For Martha-holics, the holidays have gone beyond Martha the Piffohion to become Martha the Marathon.

In Ellington, Connecticut, the holiday season finds Paula Moses braiding crusts, baking eight kinds of Christmas cookies and making pies from the sweet sugar pumpkins she planted next to the tripod for her tomatoes beside the all-white moon garden, all this in between baking the cranberry and walnut pie, just like the one she saw Martha do on the "Regis and Kathie Lee" show.

"You have to be very committed," she explained.

Pass the stuffing. And don't forget to relax.

WEATHER

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Europe				Asia			
City	Today	High	Low	City	Today	High	Low
Amsterdam	10/50	54	44	Bangkok	28/84	84	74
London	11/52	54	44	Beijing	11/52	52	42
Paris	12/54	54	44	Delhi	28/84	84	74
Rome	13/56	56	46	Hong Kong	27/79	79	69
Stockholm	14/58	58	48	Manila	28/84	84	74
Vienna	15/60	60	50	New Delhi	28/84	84	74
Warsaw	16/62	62	52	Seoul	28/84	84	74
Yokohama	17/64	64	54	Singapore	28/84	84	74
North America				Latin America			
City	Today	High	Low	City	Today	High	Low
Albuquerque	10/50	50	40	Buenos Aires	28/84	84	74
Chicago	11/52	52	42	Caracas	28/84	84	74
Denver	12/54	54	44	Mexico City	28/84	84	74
Los Angeles	13/56	56	46	Rio de Janeiro	28/84	84	74
New York	14/58	58	48	Santiago	28/84	84	74
San Francisco	15/60	60	50	Africa			
Seattle	16/62	62	52	City	Today	High	Low
Washington	17/64	64	54	Algeria	17/52	52	42
Middle East				Bombay	28/84	84	74
City	Today	High	Low	Cairo	28/84	84	74
Abu Dhabi	28/84	84	74	Chennai	28/84	84	74
Dubai	28/84	84	74	Colombo	28/84	84	74
Jeddah	28/84	84	74	Hyderabad	28/84	84	74
Riyadh	28/84	84	74	Kolkata	28/84	84	74
Tripoli	28/84	84	74	Madras	28/84	84	74
Yamoubo	28/84	84	74	Mumbai	28/84	84	74
Oceania				Nagpur	28/84	84	74
City	Today	High	Low	Pune	28/84	84	74
Auckland	17/52	52	42	Rajahmundry	28/84	84	74
Sydney	18/54	54	44	Surat	28/84	84	74

Legend: S, sunny; P, partly cloudy; C, cloudy; W, showers; H, heavy rain; L, light rain; M, mist; F, fog; B, blizzard; S, snow; R, rain; W, weather.

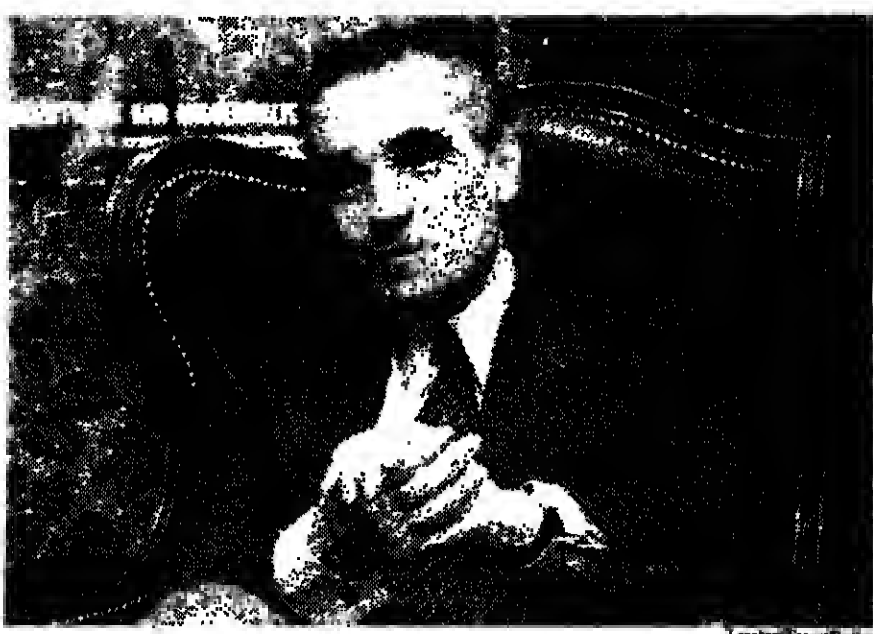
PEOPLE

THE director Ingmar Bergman said Thursday that he would bid farewell to the theater next year to focus on writing after 50 years of producing for the stage and the cinema screen. The 77-year-old Bergman told the Stockholm daily Expressen he planned to retire to the Baltic island of Faro next spring. "I feel an enormous sense of relief now that the decision has been made," he said. "Every day I long for Faro, the only place on earth where I feel at home." The director recently ended his contract with the Royal Dramatic Theater in Stockholm. "It's for entirely private reasons. It's a decision similar to when I, 13 years ago, decided to stop making films after 'Fanny and Alexander,'" he said. Bergman's wife of 24 years, Countess Ingrid von Rosen, died in May.

One of the best-kept secrets in British politics — what Michael Heseltine does to his hair to keep that full-bodied look — has been brought out into the open. A veteran of Conservative governments and current deputy prime minister, Heseltine, 62, has earned the nickname Tarzan over his voluminous endowment of wavy blond-gray hair. During an interview on BBC radio, a female caller asked: "Do you blow-dry your hair and use mousse, or is that a natural bounce we see?" An amused Heseltine gave what he swore was a straight answer: "I do nothing to my hair, except occasionally wash it." The BBC interviewer was incredulous: "Good grief. It does that on its own?" "Yes," Heseltine replied, "it does that on its own."

A bible belonging to Martin Luther which the Reformation leader probably used to translate the New Testament into German, has been discovered in a library in Stuttgart. The tome, discovered at the Wittenberg regional library, bears handwriting that is almost certainly that of the German theologian, said Manuel Santos Noya, a bibliographical expert. The bible was originally produced in 1519 in Lyon, according to experts.

Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, nearly a week after she underwent a hip replacement operation. The Queen Mother earlier had a visit from Princess Anne, who joked, "She is looking



FOCUS ON FILM — The director Martin Scorsese, after a press conference at the Vienna film festival, where his new movie, "Casino," will be shown.

ing forward to a hard winter so she can go skating in Sandringham."

Natalie Cole has filed for divorce from producer Andre Fischer, citing irreconcilable differences. They separated in October. Cole and Fischer married in 1989. She filed for divorce in 1992 but later withdrew the petition.

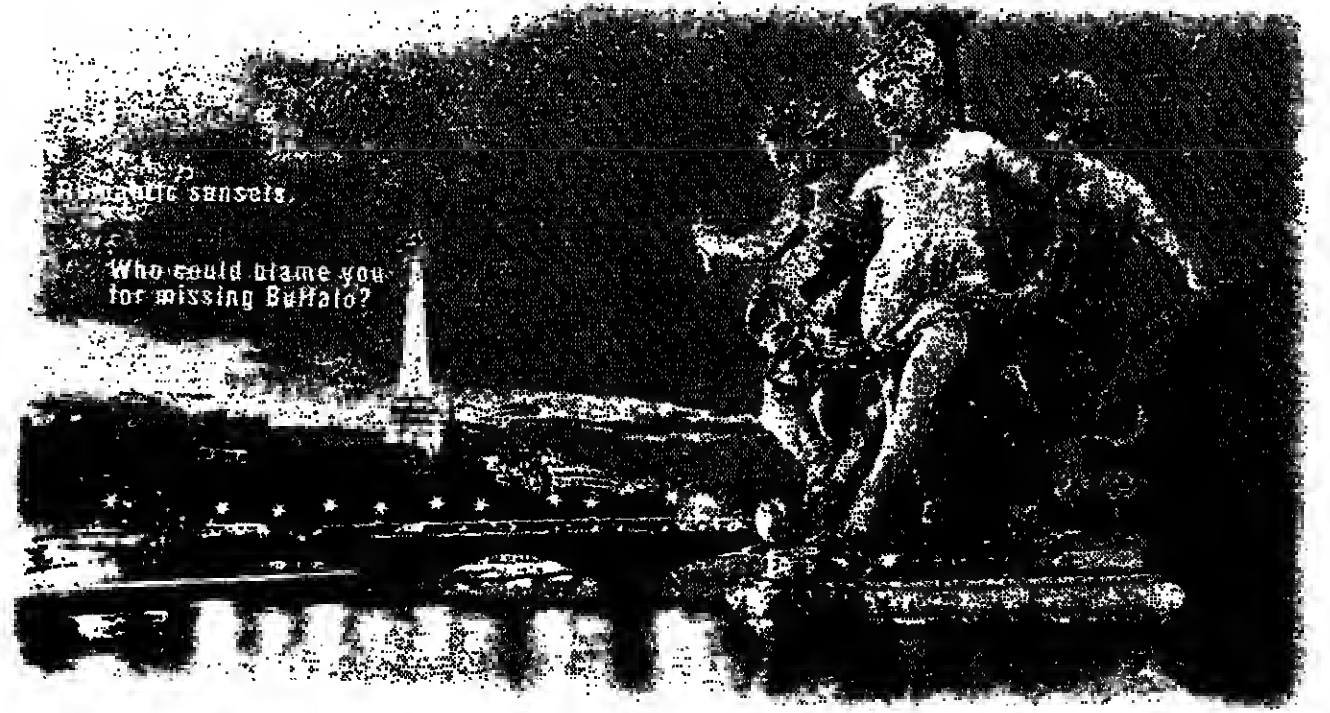
Johnny Depp has given his mother a 43-acre (17-hectare) property for a horse farm near Lexington, Kentucky, for which he paid \$950,000. His mother, Betty Sue Palmer, is expected to move in by Christmas.

Katherine Ann Power, the former anti-war radical who spent 23 years underground, has hired a literary agent to help sell a book proposal, not about her crime or prison, but about cooking, her agent told Esquire magazine. Power, who pleaded guilty to manslaughter after surrendering in 1993 and who is serving eight to 12 years in prison, is forbidden by a judge's order from "profiting financially from speech about her crime or her experience as a fugitive." She admitted

driving the getaway car in a 1970 Boston bank robbery in which a police officer was shot to death. During her years in the underground, Power lived in Lebanon, Oregon, under the name Alice Metzinger and worked in a restaurant.

Dempsy, a pit bull terrier sentenced to death for not wearing a muzzle, has been reprieved after three years by the High Court in London. Dempsy's ordeal started in 1992, when a friend of her owner took her for a walk — muzzled as the law required. The dog started to choke and the friend took off her muzzle. Police swooped in and Dempsy was ordered destroyed. The dog's plight drew worldwide calls of mercy, including one from Brigitte Bardot, who offered Dempsy a home in France.

Christopher Reeve, in a taped television interview, says his being paralyzed in a riding fall will not stop him and his wife, Dana, from having another child. The 43-year-old actor acknowledges some dark moments in his life, such as when his 3-year-old son, Will, plays ball around him. "Problem is," Reeve said, "he gets all excited and I can only look on."



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